

INTERNATIONAL

8th anniversary of invasion of Afghanistan

Soviets urged to speed up pullout

PESHAWAR, Dec. 27, (UPI): Afghan refugees and guerrillas today marked the eighth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan with rallies calling for the Kremlin to withdraw its estimated 110,000 troops still occupying the war-torn nation.

In cities throughout Pakistan and in New Delhi, thousands of Afghans shouted slogans condemning Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and accusing his soldiers of committing atrocities.

The biggest rally took place in Charsadda, 32 km west of the frontier city of Peshawar, site of the largest refugee camp of those fleeing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan who have fled to Pakistan.

Leaders of a seven-group Afghan rebel coalition addressed the crowd of men, women, children and fighters, many of them wounded in combat since Soviet troops poured into the rugged

landlocked country on Dec. 27, 1979.

The Soviets invaded Afghanistan to support a communist government battling a Muslim insurgency. Analysts estimate that about 110,000 Soviet troops are still assisting Kabul against the guerrillas, who are based in Pakistan and Iran and are backed by the United States, Iran and China.

In Islamabad, squads of heavily armed police blocked more than 1,000 Afghans shouting "Down with Gorbachev" — some of them maimed and in wheelchairs — from marching on the Soviet Embassy.

A second group of about 150 Afghan women raised posters with anti-Soviet slogans in front of the Foreign Ministry, where officers had to prevent a protester from setting himself on fire.

Afghans also staged rallies in Lahore and Karachi.

In New Delhi, about 1,000

chanting Afghans marched to a park next to Parliament where they held a rally under the gaze of 200 police officers.

"Mr Gorbachev should stop this killing in Afghanistan," said Malyer Mohammed, an organizer of the demonstration. "While one Russian remains in Afghanistan, we will not end our struggle."

The march was led by women and children carrying white, black and green banners. The protesters chanted "Down with Gorbachev, down with Russia" and "Long live Islam. Long live the Mujaheddin."

The event passed without incident except for a brief scuffle in which a marshal accused an Afghan taking photographs of the demonstrators of not being a Soviet KGB agent.

A Caucasian male filming the crowd with a video camera refused to identify himself and fled when challenged by march

organisers.

"We can't go home," said Zabi Ullah, 13, who left Kabul in 1983. "When the Russians go away, we want to go home."

Iranian police fired shots when a group of Afghan demonstrators stormed the Soviet consulate in the central Iranian city of Isfahan today, the official Islamic republic news agency said.

Security forces fired tear gas and shot into the air to disperse the protesters who were marching to mark the 8th anniversary of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the agency quoted a statement from the Isfahan governor's office saying.

Police near the Soviet Defence Ministry on Saturday roughed up a group of Soviets protesting the Kremlin's continued presence in Afghanistan. Other Soviets were reported detained at a similar action in Leningrad. A total of 30 people were

reported detained.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed the wish to withdraw Soviet forces as soon as purported interference by the United States and other countries in Afghan affairs ceases. Street protests against the Soviet involvement are rare.

In Leningrad, 14 people were detained as they unfurled banners and signs saying "Bring our children back alive from Afghanistan" and "Withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan," dissident sources reported.

Nikolai Khrumov, a Moscow member of an unofficial group seeking to establish East-West trust, said eight of those arrested in Leningrad were warned and released.

He said three others of the Leningrad protesters were given jail terms ranging up to 15 days, and three other protesters were fined up to 50 rubles (\$80). His group sponsored the protest.



Afghan refugee children chant anti-Soviet slogans during a protest march in New Delhi marking the 8th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. (Reuters radiophoto)

Abu Nidal may free 2 captives

PARIS, Dec. 27, (Reuters): A Palestinian group plans to release two children it seized with six adults from a yacht off the occupied Gaza Strip nearly two months ago, a French contact of the group said.

Lucien Bitterlin, president of the French-Arab Solidarity Association, told French Radio that "reliable sources" had told him the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) would free Marie-Laure and Virginie Valente, aged six and four.

The French Foreign Ministry today refused to confirm press reports that the two sisters, snatched on Nov. 8, would be freed in the next couple of weeks. None of the eight captives has yet been released.

The mother of the two girls, who is also being held captive, has given birth to a third daughter since she was seized, according to a statement sent by the FRC to an international news agency in Beirut on Friday.

The FRC said 29-year-old Jacqueline Valente and her newborn baby were in good health. The baby's father was Belgian captive Fernand Houtekins, 40, it said.

48-hour truce shattered

24 killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Dec. 27, (Reuters): At least 24 civilians and a policeman were killed today, shattering a fragile 48-hour peace, when police shot civilians following a Tamil guerrilla ambush in east Sri Lanka, hospital sources and residents said.

A Roman Catholic Church official at Batticaloa said by telephone that people were dragged out of shops in the market square and shot by police. "There are at least six bodies lying on the deserted streets," he said.

Police said 17 civilians were killed in crossfire.

Hospital sources said 18 dead lay in the mortuary, three of them children under 14. Another nine casualties were in serious condition.

The trouble started after Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas ambushed a police patrol in the market, killing one policeman and wounding the others, residents said.

Crowds scattered and shops closed as Indian troops and police sprayed the square with gunfire shooting at the fleeing rebels.

Firing

Residents said police also set fire to shops, motorcycles and bicycles at the market. Indian soldiers from machine-gun positions located atop buildings intermittently fired at nearby streets and "anything that moved."

"We were under siege for about three hours with bullets raining all over. Some pierced the reading room of the bishop's house which was fortunately empty," the church official said.

Windows of a house where priests lived were also broken. A police spokesman at Batticaloa said 17 civilians were killed in the crossfire.

"After ambushing the patrol, the terrorists threw grenades from shops inside the market,"

he said.

He denied that police set fire to shops and vehicles but said about 15 shops were gutted by fire set off by a fallen electric relay post which was damaged in the fighting.

The Tigers, most powerful of Tamil groups fighting for an independent homeland, repudiated a July peace accord intended to end the separatist war and are battling Indian troops sent to implement the pact.

Curfew

Police lifted a night curfew on Friday to allow Roman Catholics to attend midnight mass. Church officials said priests implored worshippers to pray for an end to the fighting.

They said the church had earlier appealed for a Christmas truce between the rebels and security forces. No serious incidents were reported by police on Christmas Day and Saturday.

Iranians detained in Belgrade

BELGRADE, Dec. 27, (Reuters): A group of seven Iranians seeking asylum in Canada said last night that they were being held by police at Belgrade airport and the Yugoslav authorities were threatening to send them back to Dubai.

One of the group, a man who asked not to be named, told Reuters by telephone that he and his compatriots arrived from Dubai on Saturday morning. He said the Yugoslav authorities had told them they would be sent back there.

"We are seven people, two families with two pregnant women who are sleeping on the floor," said the man. "The Yugoslav police want to send us back to Iran."

He said: "From Dubai they will send us to Tehran and we are sure they will kill us in Iran."

Police at the airport said the group arrived from Istanbul on Saturday morning.

Diplomatic sources said the man acting as spokesman then contacted the Canadian embassy in Belgrade and complained that Yugoslav Airlines (JAT) officials had rejected their visas.

Human rights activists face abuses

NEW YORK, Dec. 27, (Reuters): Ten human rights activists were killed, two disappeared and nearly 500 more were tortured, detained, threatened or harassed in 39 countries over the past year, a worldwide survey reported.

Human Rights Watch, a New York-based human rights monitoring group made up of America Watch, Asia Watch and Helsinki Watch, said the largest number of cases occurred in Chile, Czechoslovakia, South Africa and the Soviet Union.

It added, however, that the number of cases cited should not be considered an index of repression.

"Some countries such as North Korea are examples — are so repressive that, as far as we know, no one is able to engage in human rights monitoring."

"Elsewhere — Indonesia, Guatemala, Romania and Vietnam are examples — monitoring human rights abuses has been so risky that only a handful of brave souls have taken up the effort to report and document our government's abuses," it added.

The survey said five of the ten killings over the past year took place in Colombia, two in El Salvador, and one in Brazil, the Soviet Union and the Philippines.

The eight killings in Latin America were by unidentified gunmen.

Reconciliation meeting expected any moment

PLO-Syria ties soon: Khalaf

ABU DHABI, Dec. 27, (AP): A senior Palestinian official was quoted today as saying he expected a reconciliation meeting soon between Syria and leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Salah Khalaf, considered the No. 2 man in the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction, was quoted by the Al-Itihad newspaper as saying he expected "a meeting between Syrian and PLO officials at any moment."

He reportedly said the two sides "exchanged messages and memos during the Arab summit in Amman" last month.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, the leader of Fatah, and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad have

long been at odds over the direction of Arab efforts against Israel. Assad also supports PLO factions opposed to Arafat's leadership.

However Arab states and the Soviet Union, an ally of each, have long pressed the two sides to overcome their differences. Assad and Arafat also now agree on calls for a United Nations-sponsored peace conference on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Peace

Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, was quoted as saying such a conference "is an important means for solving the Palestinian problem," and said "there is no other political means for peace."

He said the PLO "will accept

any piece of the (Israeli) occupied land to establish the Palestinian state, and the boundaries issue is not important at the moment."

That reassured established PLO policy, although the PLO and all Arab states insist it will never surrender portions of the occupied lands, particularly East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Current PLO policy calls for establishing a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in confederation with Jordan. The PLO's long-term goal remains a "democratic, secular state" in Israel and the occupied territories combined, though PLO leaders say it should be achieved peacefully.

13 detainees awaiting trial in Cairo

CAIRO, Dec. 27, (UPI): Authorities confirmed for the first time today that 13 persons are in jail awaiting trial for belonging to an underground group that took responsibility for a series of attacks on Israeli and US diplomats in Cairo.

The state information service said a Cairo court today rejected a petition for their release and ordered their continued detention.

The suspects were arrested last September for belonging to a secret group that calls itself Egypt's revolution.

That group had claimed responsibility for the killing of an Israeli diplomat in 1985 and for a 1986 attack on the Israeli pavilion at the Cairo trade fair in which two Israeli women were killed. It also claimed responsibility for an abortive attempt last May on the lives of three US Embassy officials.

Little is known about the progress of the investigation because the attorney-general ordered a news blackout following the September arrests. Today's announcement was the first official word that the suspects were 13 and that they were still in jail.

The announcement indicated that no formal charges had been filed against them yet.

Time names Gorbachev Man of the Year

NEW YORK, Dec. 27, (AP): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, whose summit meeting with President Reagan raised hopes for an easing of Soviet-American tensions, was named Time magazine's Man of the Year yesterday.

Gorbachev, 56, is the fourth Soviet leader to appear on the cover of Time's Man of the Year issue and the first to appear alone since Nikita Khrushchev in 1957.

He was selected over such runners-up as Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, the star witness of the Iran-Contra hearings last summer, and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez, who was awarded the Nobel peace prize for his attempts to forge a peace agreement in Central America.

Collapse

Time said it also considered two events as Man of the Year: the Oct. 19 stock market collapse and the AIDS epidemic.

In naming Gorbachev as its 61st annual Man of the Year, Time described him as "a dedicated communist and a ruthless political opportunist" whom the past year became a "symbol of hope for a new kind of Soviet Union: more open, more concerned with the welfare of its citizens and less with the spread of its ideology and system abroad."

The magazine describes Gorbachev's education and unexpected rise to power, saying that his original career choice — law — was an unusual one for a budding politician, and that the young Gorbachev was "a true believer among cynical careerists."

"Perhaps his most obvious achievement is that he has reinvented the idea of a Soviet leader," Time said. "Virtually everything about his country and its place in world affairs seems less ponderous, less opaque than it did before."

The last Soviet leader to be named Man of the Year was Yuri Andropov, who shared the Time cover with Reagan in 1983. Joseph Stalin was named Man of the Year twice, in 1939 and 1945. Time stresses that it selects the recipients solely on the basis of their influence on world affairs.

Ershad in touch with foes

(Continued from Page 1)

A senior leader of the ruling Jatiya Party, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "President Ershad is ready to make as many concessions as possible for holding of polls and (achieving) restoration of democracy in the country."

Deal

He said a package deal rejected by the opposition two weeks ago included Ershad's dissociation from the Jatiya Party, dissolution of the cabinet and total neutrality of the government during the upcoming balloting.

He said the offer also included provisions to expand the election commission, the independent body responsible for conducting the polls, with two nominees from each of the major alliances and parties.

Boycott

The opposition led by Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party announced it would boycott elections for seats on 68,000 village councils, known as union parishads, scheduled to take place between Feb. 10 and Feb. 17.

The state-run television station has blacklisted 12 prominent actors who have supported opposition demands for Ershad's resignation, an opposition-backed cultural group said today.

A source at the television station refused to comment on the reported blacklisting, but he said three TV dramas had been postponed because of the actors taken.

Jordan to foil Israeli plans

(Continued from Page 1)

Officials to ask about their sons. A commercial strike continued in Nablus and the nearby Balata refugee camp, which has been a focus of violent demonstrations, the agency said.

Curfew

The Army said a curfew was imposed on the Akkar refugee camp, near Nablus, after demonstrators stormed a police station on Friday night.

Nearly 2,000 peace demonstrators, demanding an end to Israeli occupation, marched through the occupied Jerusalem last night to protest the government's handling of a wave of bloody unrest in the territories.

Police used tear gas to disperse some 50 demonstrators who tried to approach Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's residence after the march had ended.

"This is a call to bring pressure on the government to open new initiative for peace," said Janet Aviad, treasurer of the Peace Now Organisation.

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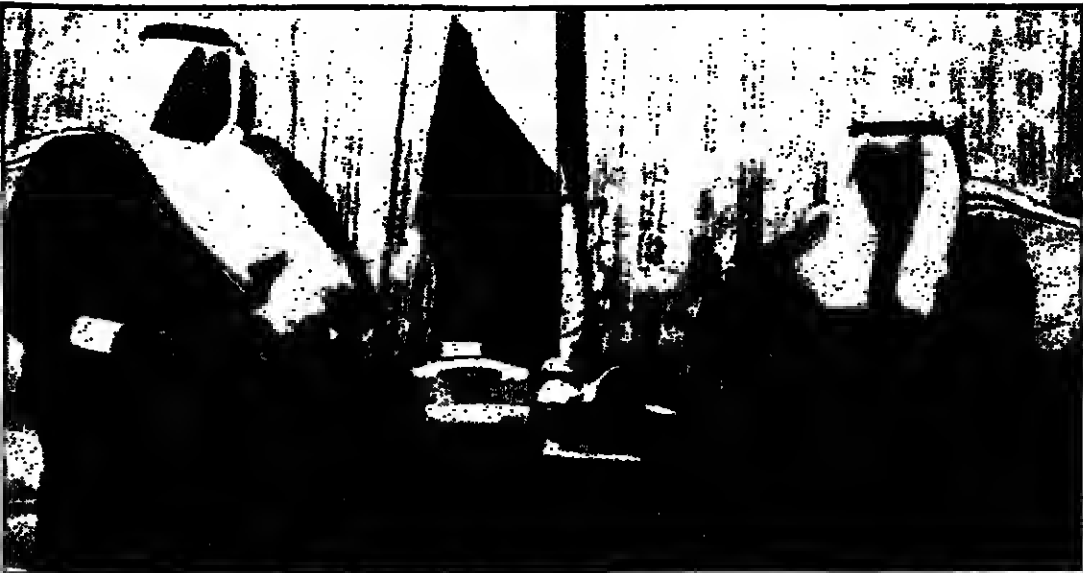
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HH the Amir yesterday met the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani (left) and Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

Amir meets GCC leaders

RIYADH, Dec 27. (Kuna): HH the Amir of Kuwait called on the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani at his residence this morning.

Later, the Amir visited United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

The Amir shortly afterwards received at his residence the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

The Amir also received Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guards, Prince Abdullah Bin Aziz, and the governor of Riyadh, Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz.

The Amir this evening received Sultan Qaboos of Oman and the accompanying delegation.

Cultural centres for children

KUWAIT'S National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters has decided to establish a number of cultural centres for children in different areas of the country.

The decision was based on a working paper submitted to the council's secretariat general.

The paper said that the rapid changes in the community required the preparing of a new generation to meet the changes.

The project aimed at building a child's character by enriching its knowledge through acquisition of new concepts and sustaining of patriotic sentiments.

Sheikh Saad optimistic over GCC summit

RIYADH, Dec 27. (Kuna): Kuwait's Deputy Amir and Crown Prince HH Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today expressed optimism over the holding of the eighth GCC summit for the great importance it embodies in backing Gulf cooperation.

Sheikh Saad said, in an interview with daily Okaz newspaper published here today, that the GCC summit which began yesterday will look into vital issues which concern countries and peoples of the region.

Sheikh Saad indicated that security cooperation between countries of the region is being given great attention, noting that GCC interior ministers are continuously coordinating in all security matters.

Efforts

He affirmed that the situation in the area calls for a lot of efforts by all Gulf officials as well as citizens.

He called for taking precautionary measures when dealing with the possible dangers, saying, "we have to be extremely careful and fully aware because we are all targeted."

On the recent explosions which took place in Kuwait, Sheikh Saad said, "we are closely watching these crimes and know the culprits." He added, "we also

know that this is a price we pay for our firm positions."

The Defence Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum today asserted that military coordination between GCC states is in its best condition, saying plans were running smoothly.

Welfare

In a dispatch from Riyadh where the minister is attending the GCC summit, a Kuwaiti newspaper quoted Al Maktoum as saying that any attack against one of GCC states is an aggression on all the other members under joint defence coordination.

On the other hand, Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa expressed hope that the GCC summit would reach positive results and add to the accomplishments of previous summits.

"During this period, we need to promote discussions and exchange views on issues that concern all parties especially in security, defence and economic fields," the minister said.

Economic and defence fields will top the agenda of the meeting, he told the daily in Riyadh.

Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Al

Osaimi said that the GCC member-countries "are proceeding with rapid steps toward the realisation of the council's welfare targets."

In an interview with the Saudi Television, Al Osaimi enumerated various achievements ever since the council's formation.

Kuwait's Information Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed told the Saudi Television that the GCC "is a unique experiment in the framework of the Arab action based on brotherhood, understanding and the joint work."

Sheikh Nasser described the unified economic agreement as one of the most significant achievements of the GCC and termed it as a sound base for developing the joint GCC action.

The Kuwaiti Information Minister also lauded the GCC's progress in the field of information and hoped it would attain more positive steps.

Bolivian envoy

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Services Affairs Issa Al Maziidi yesterday conferred with the Bolivian ambassador to Kuwait on bilateral cooperation.

Afterwards the ambassador was received by Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti and the two exchanged cordial talks.

Consultative committee for transport to be formed

SAUDI Arabia's Communication Minister, Hussain Mansouri, said that the GCC communication and transport ministers council had decided to form a consultative committee for overland and maritime transport consisting of undersecretaries of communication and transport ministries.

He told the Seyassah newspaper that the committee would coordinate with the GCC secretariat general to increase cooperation in the field of communication and transport, and would collect and analyse the results of pertinent studies in order to define priorities at present and in future.

He said the council was studying the possibility of establishing a joint company for transport between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Mansouri said many steps were being taken to boost cooperation among member states in the transport field, including exemption from transit fees and taxes.

Bangladesh condemns violence in occupied lands

A SPOKESMAN of the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry said recently that the government and people of Bangladesh were profoundly shocked and dismayed by the unmitigated and continued violence being perpetrated on the people of Palestine by Zionist forces, according to a press release of the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait.

He said his country strongly condemned the inhuman atrocities and wanton killing of unarmed civilian population in the occupied territories.

Bangladesh reiterated its firm support of an early convening of an international conference for achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, he said.

Mirghani receives Amir's message

KHARTOUM, Dec 27. (Kuna): President of the State Council, Ahmed Al Mirghani has received a message from HH the Amir of Kuwait on the current situation in the occupied Arab territories, it was reported here today.

The message dealt with the current situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Zionist repression against the Arab people there in flagrant violation of human rights.

The message stressed the importance of continued consultations among Islamic countries to confront the Israeli barbaric acts against the Palestinians and to safeguard the Palestinian peoples' just rights in the context of the principles of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), of which the Kuwaiti Amir is current chairman.

Meat shops distributed by lottery

KUWAIT Municipality distributed meat shops at the old market in the Mubarakia area by lottery, allocating them to 44 persons who previously used the Amir and Al Zal markets, it was reported.

Waseel Mansour, the Municipality Assistant Director General for Health Affairs, said that tenders for the renovation of the Amir market and the old vegetable and meat market would be floated soon.

In another matter, Mansour said that the removal of tents in front of houses in residential areas had been postponed and that a committee with representatives from the Interior Ministry and the Municipality had been formed to set up conditions for tent removal.

He added that the Municipality had formed another committee to study the needs of owners at the bird market and it had been decided to move the market to the sheep market.

Mansour reminded citizens that camping could be done from December 1 to April 30 and that citizens who violated the regulations of the Cleanliness Law could be fined up to KD500.

Arrested at airport

A PALESTINIAN was arrested at Kuwait Airport by security men when they found he had a number of batteries, stop watches, meters, spare parts and other items.

The man admitted stealing them from the company he worked for and was referred to the police for further investigation.

Somalia urges peaceful settlement of Gulf war

MOGADISHU, Dec 27. (Reuters): Acting Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Hamud told a visiting Iranian delegation last night that Somalia wanted to see a peaceful end to the Gulf war.

The war had jeopardised the interests and stability of Islamic countries, and had ended the peaceful coexistence between the countries now involved in the war, he said.

The delegation, the first to visit Somalia from Iran since the outbreak of the seven-year-old Gulf war, is led by Mohamed Hussein

Organ transplants permitted officially

AN Amiri Decree on organ transplants was published yesterday in the official gazette.

The law allowed the transfer and transplant of organs from a live or dead body to a sick person provided that the results were expected to be successful.

It added that any person had the full right during his life to donate one or more organs or to make a will donating organs after his death. The will had to be in writing before two well-qualified witnesses.

Forbidden

But the law forbids any transfer or donation of any organ if this could lead to the death of the donor or stop one of his important functions. It said it was necessary to inform the donor in writing about the likely result to his health due to donation and gave the donor the right to withdraw any time before surgery began.

The law allowed the transfer of any organ from a dead body provided permission was obtained from one of his well

qualified relatives up to the second degree. In case many relatives of similar degree were present then the majority had to agree in writing.

The law totally banned the sale or purchase or any body organ by any means, and forbade doctors who had knowledge of such a transaction from carrying out the transplant.

The law banned donors from taking back the organs they had donated in accordance with this law.

The law authorised the Health Ministry to announce the centres or places where transplant operations would be carried out and to announce the necessary procedures and conditions for transplants.

The law said that violation of any of the articles faced imprisonment up to three years and a fine up to KD 3,000 or one of them. Those who repeated the crime within two years of the final judgement would face double the penalty.

Shirking work is a common practice

LEAVING the job during working hours is quite common at every ministry and establishment, and a large number of employees have said this is a dangerous practice and called on officials to take all necessary measures to prevent it spreading and becoming a threat to work.

They said there were several reasons for this, including poor supervision, lack of incentive policies, the feeling of some employees that they were over-qualified for their jobs, and that their salaries were low compared to their efforts.

Quality

An employee at a ministry told a local newspaper he felt the post he held was not important and his university degree would easily qualify him for a bigger post. He therefore did not take his work seriously and felt there was a big barrier hindering his progress, so he drank tea and chatted, and then left work and would be absent for long periods. Nobody checked on him and his work was not important. He said that when he found a suitable job he would resign.

Another employee said he did not go to his work for a long time but still received his salary at the end of every month. He began working while a student, obtained a university degree and then started other work in the private sector as well. He said he was only a registrar of his government job and did not know how to spend time. His private work was more interesting.

Waste

Another employee, Ahmad Abdul Razaq Al Zayed, said that it was not correct to waste working hours and a person should carry out his duties without delay. He said some staff forgot that wasting time costs the government and petitioners a lot of money.

Mohammed Al Enaizi said that abusing working hours was a waste of the government's money. Delaying work might result in postponing it for weeks and sometimes months, and papers might be lost or destroyed.

Jassem Abdul Aziz said that when he left his ministry work to complete transactions at another

ministry, he asked colleagues to do his work. Employees who leave their jobs during working hours should be punished. He said that employees who like their job work properly and in time and deal positively with people. He said it was necessary to put the right person in the right post. Some employees felt they were not important so they left their work with any excuse, came to work only when necessary or sometimes came at the end of the month only.

Punished

Saleh Al Elayan said that escaping from work was something that should be dealt with promptly. Officers who left their work should be punished because they were supposed to set a good example to other employees.

Nasser Al Tatan said the matter could not be resolved unless special persons were appointed to punish and check employees. He said establishments in Kuwait did not have an incentive policy. Some officers exercised their authority in a wrong way and resulted in employees shirking work.

The general director of an establishment, Ahmad Al Dashti, said that wasting working time was not acceptable and employees should work because they were paid for it. He said that work at one establishment was connected with that at other establishments and any delays would therefore reflect on others. Escaping from work took place at all establishments, and employees might go out to complete their private affairs or roam about inside their departments.

A staff at the commerce college, Dr Saoud Abdul Aziz Al Hajeri, said that leaving work was a negative action and noticeable at all establishments. This affected work and was the result of the negative attitude of employees.

Mubarak to visit UAE next month

ABU DHABI, Dec 27. (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on January 10, the official emirates news agency Wam said today.

It said he would hold talks with UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan on Arab issues and the Iran-Iraq war.

The two leaders would also discuss ways to promote an international Middle East peace conference and relations between the two countries.

The UAE was the first of nine Arab states to resume ties with Egypt in November after an eight-year break caused by Cairo's peace treaty with Israel.

Ministerial council meeting

RIYADH, Dec 27. (Kuna): The ministerial council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held a meeting here tonight, headed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saoud Al Faisal.

The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, in addition to Saudi Arabia, whose leaders are currently holding their eighth summit conference here.

Following the meeting, Prince Saoud announced that the conference has discussed political and social issues.

He added that the oil ministers of the six member states will hold a meeting this evening or tomorrow morning on the sidelines of the summit.

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INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

1987 — worst year for video viewing



Smriti Patil in Debsishu

By Fathima Ahmed

THIS year was the worst year for video viewing, particularly due to the shortage of new films, though more than 160 Hindi films were released this year, each seemed to be worse than the previous one. The Indian film industry made plenty of bloopers in the name of movies this year. It could hardly be rated as a year of achievement for filmmakers. The couple of films that were good were plagiarised from the West, without even giving credit to them. For instance, Jalwa, which was a scene scene copy of Beverly Hills Cop and Khudgarz, loosely based on Jeffrey Archer's Kane and Abel.

Due to the paucity of "good films on video", selecting the best was extremely difficult, particularly after seeing some good cinema at the Indian film festival. Now, how can one compare Genesis with Insaaf? Or Paroma with Mr India? Such comparisons are meaningless, because Genesis, Paroma, and other such movies belong to what is known as the parallel cinema. And such movies are hardly ever released on video, at least not in the first, second, third or fourth year of production. In fact, they are never shown in a conventional cinema hall, save the rare occasions when they are promoted at film festivals.

Entertainment

The films that are shown on video are what are considered to be middle-of-the-road cinema: or purely commercial (cooeyor belt movies) entertainers.

1987 was perhaps the year of cooeyor belt movies, mass produced for pure entertainment. Some examples: Dil Tujhko Diya, Sitapur Ki Geeta,

Aulad, Majal, Ithas, Jawah Hum Denge, Pyar Kark Dekho, Dadagiri, Sindoor, Kudrat Ka Kanoon, Thikana, Uttar Dakshin, Dance Dance, Raheeh, Aulad, Mera Lahoo and many more.

Among all the reshaped, rotten potatoes were hidden some relatively off-the-beaten-track, not-off-beat movies. The best film this year was perhaps Ketan Mehta's Mirch Masala, based on a Gujarati short story by Chinukal Madhia, was perhaps the best film in 1987. Mehta's experiment with form, colour, space and light created a colourful collage. The powerful movie is strengthened by the excellent performance of Smriti Patil, Naseeruddin Shah and Om Puri who rise above a mundane theme — of good vs evil. Stunning photography added visual splendour to the already colourful movie.

Credit

The next best was Debsishu, which examines superstitions and ignorance. There is no melodrama, only a sense of loss as the trapped Sita in Debsishu waits for reprieve. Will there be a way out of fear, helplessness, ignorance and hopelessness? Utpalendu Chakraborty's Debsishu states ugly truths about superstitions, poverty and ignorance. This film deserves special mention, particularly for Smriti Patil's faultless performance as the hapless Sita, a victim of age-old prejudices.

Smriti Patil should be named Best Actress of the Year for her faultless performance in Mirch Masala and Debsishu. Hema Malini deserves special credit for coming back in Ek Chadar Maili Si, based on Rajinder Singh Bedi's novel about a Punjabi custom that forces a widow to marry her brother-in-law. Ek Chadar...



New Image for Naseeruddin Shah, with Archana in Jalwa

finely captures the Punjab countryside with deft camerawork. Mellow music and restrained acting lifted it above mediocrity.

Among action movies Jalwa takes the cake — not only for imitating Beverly Hills Cop to the minutest detail but also for giving a new image to Naseeruddin Shah, who was confined to the parallel cinema. A taut Indianised version, it also showed the ever increasing popularity of the vendetta theme. No wonder, then, that another personal score is nearly settled in Rakesh Roshan's Khudgarz.

In the entertainment genre, Khudgarz, despite of being a poor copy of Kane and Abel, became a top hit in Kuwait, following its success in India. Shatrughan Sinha's restrained interpretation of Bihari Babu is one of the highlights of the movie, in which even Jeetendra plays down his act.

Vinod Khanna's comeback film Insaaf was a slick production of the cops and robbers tale, with Vinod displaying his versatility as the professor, lawyer, down-and-out unemployed youth, smuggler and finally as a police informant. Dimple Kapadia gets a chance to show off her dancing skills, and her rare acting ability.

The movies which could be better but were not — and died an honourable death were Nagina, in spite of Sridevi's excellent dances; Dacait, spell-



Sunny Deol and Meenakshi in Dacait

ing doom for its star Sunny Deol, Kudrat Ka Kanoon, following in the footsteps of the wronged woman getting back at the villains; and Yaadna, another tedious charade on so-called women's liberation.

The worst films, undoubtedly, were Parivaar, Aag Hi Aag, a movie as violent as its title and more; Himmat Aur Mehnat, which deserves an award for absurd dialogue and off-key music and senseless lyrics; Sadak Chaap gets an award for glorifying misery and inventing a cold-hearted (literally and physically) method of eliminating oosy employees and cleverly reshaping a stale theme — lost and found. And Hawalaat for creat-

ing a new lingo — Hindlish, by adapting Hindi and English. Pyar Ke Kabil gets the worst reshaped movie of the year award for its unsuccessful attempt to trap viewers in the Parent Trap. Aod Loha strengthens the resolve never to trust bad guys who made good punks — example Amrish Puri, with his hair standing on end.

Mahesh Bhatt's Thikana has been mentioned purely to indicate the director's entry into the purely commercial cinema. Though Bhatt reexamines relationships in a new light, and a more realistic one, he does his best to forget his past experiments, particularly Arth and Janam.

THE BEST, THE TOLERABLE AND THE WORST FILMS OF 1987:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| BEST FILMS | 6. Sunaar |
| 1. Mirch Masala | 7. Kudrat Ka Kanoon |
| 2. Debsishu | 8. Dil Tujhko Diya |
| 3. Sutradhar | 9. Thikana |
| 4. Ek Chadar Maili Si | 10. Uttar Dakshin |
| 5. Jalwa | WORST FILMS |
| 6. Khudgarz | 1. Ithas |
| 7. Insaaf | 2. Aag Hi Aag |
| 8. Satyameva Jayate | 3. Himmat Aur Mehnat |
| | 4. Hawalaat |
| | 5. Sadak Chaap |
| | 6. 7 Saal Baad |
| | 7. Kaun Jeeta Kaun Hara |
| | 8. Mera Lahoo |
| | 9. Maa Beti |
| | 10. Parivaar |

TOLERABLE FILMS

1. Dance Dance
2. Mr. India
3. Nagina
4. Insaaf Dus Hazaar
5. Dacait



Voluptuous Sridevi in Nagina

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Iwan Gallery
A collection of paintings by six Iraqi artists is being shown at the Iwan Gallery, Zahra Complex. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm, until Jan 12.

FILMS

Indian Film Festival
Shekhar Kapur's Masoom, which examines relationships, will be shown tonight at 7.30 pm at the auditorium of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The film stars Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi and child artist Jugla Hansraj. Children are not admitted. For further details

contact the Cine Club, near Indian Embassy, Bneid Al Qar.

SOCIAL

Vienna Boys Choir
Vienna Boys Choir will give one performance at 8.30 pm on Jan 5 (Tuesday) in the Grand Ballroom at Kuwait Hilton Hotel. They will play a 40-minute piece by Johann Strauss — Tales from the Vienna Woods. They will also present excerpts from compositions by Franz Schubert, Peter Eben, Henry Purcell der Viadana and Benjamin Britten.

ASK Alumni Dinner

Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs Suzy Jones — 5314568.

ACT
Auditions for ACT's next production "An Evening of Absurdity" will be held on Dec 30 (Wednesday) from 7 to 9 pm. For further details and location call 5620332; 5725071.

HOTELS

At the Hilton
Enjoy a slice of Christmas Stollen or a wedge of Irish Coffee Cake, the cake of the week, in La Patisserie. Christmas logs, stollens and cakes are also available. La Patisserie is open daily from 10 am to 10.45 pm.

At the Holiday Inn
Pastries, stollens and logs for the festive season and New Year are available at the Lobby Lounge. Lunch featuring seasonal food will be offered at the Coffee Shop, Al Dana and Al Andalus. For details contact the hotel.

At the Ramada Al Salam
Special children's brunch parties will be held every Friday from January 1 in El Bender. Lots of fun and games will be provided from 12 noon to 3 pm.

At the Sheraton
Al Hamba features a special buffet dinner of Dec 31 and a special lunch buffet on Jan. 1. Hunt Room will offer a special dinner buffet on Thursday night; music by the Paradise Trio. Riccardo features an a la carte menu and Le Tarbouche will feature special lunch and dinner buffet on Thursday and Friday.

At the Meridien
Special lunch and dinner menus will be offered (this week at all the outlets — Versailles, La Brasserie and at Remy and Tony's Jam session enjoy toe-tapping music on Thursday. Family fun on Friday in La

Brasserie, featuring a special menu, video cartoons, water games and magic and other attractions for all the family.

At Messilah Beach
Special New Year's Eve Dinner and New Year Lunch in Al Mubarakiah; buffet featuring seasonal food.

Children's parties will be held every Friday in Al Jawharab in cooperation with Kids' r' Us from 4 to 7 pm. Join the fun with the band, clown, games. Many prizes to be won, plus a gift for every child.

● All entries for the What's On Column can be teleaxed (22332) to Events Section, or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwelkh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoon serial.
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.45 La ilaha illallah: historical serial featuring Yusuf Shabaan, Hala Fakher, Raghdha.
- 5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Documentary: "Soo-ra Min Tabbiya."
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Weekend: repeat
- 7.35 Quran and Science: hosted by Dr Ahmad Shawkil Ibrahim
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Gbaddan Tadaq Al Ajaras: Arabic serial, starring Salah

Saadani, Hina Thar-wath
10.30 Zaat Masa'a: Arabic play. Starring: Ali Al Buraiki, Hamad Nasser, Hussein Al Mansour. Three friends go to sea for fishing and they are involved in an accident due to rough seas...
11.45 News Summary
11.50 World News Via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Paw Paws: cartoons
- 6.30 The Animal Express: a visit to the dog training centres near the Mexican border.
- 7.00 Roving Report: roundup of world

news
7.30 Webster: "The Truth Hurts." Webster buys a gift for his mother...
8.00 News in English
8.4 American Basketball
10.00 Oddie in Paradise: A look at 200 species of rare birds in New Guinea in addition to turtles, giant lizards and water birds.
10.30 Adderly: "The Secrets of the Sun." A prominent physicist is kidnapped. Adderly is assigned to rescue him.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

- Morning**
- 08.00 Opening
 - 08.02 Songs and Music
 - 08.05 Science Journal
 - 08.20 Songs and Music
 - 08.30 News
 - 08.40 Songs and Music
 - 08.45 Daily Programme
 - 09.00 Songs and Music
 - 09.15 Writers and their Works
 - 09.30 Radio Magazine Supplement
 - 10.00 Our Press Today
 - 10.05 Songs and Music
 - 10.30 Songs and Music
 - 11.00 Closedown
 - 13.30 News on the FM Service.
- Evening**
- 21.00 Opening
 - 21.02 Bits and Bites
 - 21.30 News
 - 21.45 Point of View
 - 21.55 Songs and Music
 - 22.00 Facts about Zionism
 - 22.15 Magazine Special
 - 22.45 Daily Programme
 - 23.00 Peel Mel
 - 24.00 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening/Holy Quran
- 1910 Bekhteen Qaul
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Islam Daur-e-Hazir
- 2000 News in Urdu
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Imanee Mehmaan
- 2100 Closedown

FM Services

- 08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
- 08.30-08.40 News
- 08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
- 10.00-10.30 Songs and Music
- 10.30-11.30 Easy Listening
- 13.30-14.00 News
- 13.40-14.00 Easy Listening
- 14.00-16.00 Classical Music

- 16.00-17.00 Easy Listening
- 17.00-18.00 Latin American
- 18.00-19.00 Pops
- 19.00-20.00 Hester Skelter
- 20.00-21.30 Pops
- 21.30-21.45 News
- 21.45-22.00 Pops
- 22.00-23.00 Jazz
- 23.00-24.00 Easy Listening
- 24.00-02.00 Instrumental Listening

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newswel
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by Sergeant Pepper (ex 21st The Old Ladies at the Zoo; 28th Pop Special)
- 45 Organists of Paris (ex 28th Pop Special cont.)
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Peckles' Choice
- 30 Science in Action (ex 28th Discovery)
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes (ex 28th A Matter of Honour)
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 Christmas with the Savages
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Waveguide
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Nature Notebook
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 Questions of Faith
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 14th Robots on the March: 21st Learning the Lingo; 28th Art and Accountability

- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Christmas with the Savages
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Financial News (ex 28th) followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Peckles' Choice
- 1000 News Summary followed by Questions of Faith
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Tech Talk
- 30 Album Time
- 1200 Radio Newswel
- 15 My Music
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 News Summary
- 30 Anything Goes (ex 28th A Matter of Honour)
- 1400 Outlook, opening with News Summary
- 45 The Mao of Property (ex 28th I've Been Together Now For 70 Years)
- 1500 Radio Newswel
- 15 Question of Faith
- 45 A Mozart Miscellany
- 1600 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Turning Point (ex 28th Sportsworld)
- 30 The A-Z of Hollywood (ex 28th Sportsworld cont.)
- 45 The World Today (ex 28th Sportsworld cont.)
- 1700 World News
- 09 Book Choice
- 15 From the Poms
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsweek
- 30 Multitrack
- 1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary
- 39 Stock Market Report (ex 28th)
- 45 Peckles' Choice

ALL TIMES GMT



Bengali society holds reception

THE Three Faces of Indian Cinema were discussed at a reception held on Friday by the Bengali Cultural Society for the visiting Indian directors Mrinal Sen, Aparna Sen and the actress Gita Sen.

The society's patron, Dr Saleha Moosa, Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha and others attended the dinner-reception held at the SAS. Its president Nripen Acharya, in his welcome address, said his society

played a leading role in organising the Indian Film Festival and worked closely with the Cine Club and the Indian embassy.

Picture shows: (L-R) N. Aebarya, Mrinal Sen, Gita Sen, Aparna Sen and H. Bhowmik at the reception. (Photo by Mohd Abbas)

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait**
Al Ameen Pharmacy
Bebbehani Bldg., Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Al Rasheed Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nugra
Al Waleed Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Sima Pharmacy
Baghdad St.
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Imaan Pharmacy
Makkah St. F'heel
Farwania
Al Huwala Pharmacy
Mustawaf St.
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Cooperative Society

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus**
Rage of Honour
Starring: Jerry Gaboo
Al Salmiya
Little Shop of Horrors
Starring: Bill Murray, Ellen Green
Al Hamra
Hands of Steel
Starring: Daniel Greco, Janette
Drive-In
Wa Yabqa Al Hub (Arabic)
Starring: Farid Shawki, Suhair Ramzi, Fuad Bakshi
Aziz
Al Firdous
Mirch Masala (Hindi)
Starring: Smriti Patil, Naseeruddin Shah, Raj Babbar
Fahsheel Open-Air
Tarana (Hindi)

Al-Fahsheel
Amritham
(Malayalam)
Al Jahra
C.O.D.
Granada
Viva Knieval
Sulabikhat
Play Dead
Al Jeeb
Madhu Maloti (Beogali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Money Pit

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.17 am
Zuhr	11.50
Asr	2.40 pm
Maghreb	4.50
Isha	6.21

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

"Tis the mind that makes the body rich — William Shakespeare, English playwright (1564-1616).

Soviets making inroads in Gulf

By Warren Richey

MANAMA, Bahrain: The crisis in the Gulf has provided the Soviet Union its best opportunity in years to make significant diplomatic and economic inroads in the region.

But diplomats disagree on just how worried the United States should be.

Many diplomats on the Arab side of the Gulf say the Soviets have effectively used the threat of a US naval buildup to forge stronger relations with Iran.

Soviet diplomatic efforts underscore the limits of US military power and position Moscow as a necessary participant in future regional peace talks, they say. But in the process, the Soviets seem to have raised suspicions in the Arab world that Moscow now favours Iran.

"They are not winning any points on this side of the Gulf," says a Western diplomat in Kuwait. "The Soviets are in for a rude awakening when the war is over."

Soviet reluctance to support a US-backed bid for a United Nations arms embargo against Iran has the Iraqis furious. In an unprecedented criticism, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has accused Moscow (Iraq's No. 1 arms supplier) of being an obstacle to UN peace efforts. His words were delivered with particular urgency as an estimated 250,000 Iranian soldiers were reported massing along the Iran-Iraq border in preparation for a long-anticipated offensive.

The Soviets are holding to their often-stated position that patient diplomatic efforts — rather than an arms embargo against Iran — stand a better chance of ending the war.

Damage
But the moment of truth for Moscow may be fast approaching, as Arab voices call on Moscow to back sanctions against Iran. To many, Soviet wavering on this issue is proof that the Soviets are stalling for time to improve ties with Iran at the expense of UN peace efforts.

Some analysts say the Soviets may have already lost much of the goodwill they gained among the Gulf Arab states from their decision last year to send five warships and three chartered tankers to the Gulf to help protect Kuwaiti oil shipments from Iranian raids.

It was the prospect of such a Soviet deployment in a region traditionally dominated by the US that prompted the Reagan administration last winter to offer to re-register and escort 11 Kuwaiti tankers.

But other analysts say that despite US efforts to outbid the Soviets in the Gulf, the damage is already done. "The Russians are the clear winners in all this," says a Gulf-based Western diplomat. "They are now perceived as hav-

ing a legitimate business in the region. This changes the equation."

The Americans don't want to further legitimise Moscow's role in the Gulf. And the Soviets seem more interested in pointing up what they see as US excesses in the region than in criticising Iran for continuing to escalate the war, analysts say.

Beneficiary
Some diplomats say that despite current difficulties with Arab public opinion, the Soviets remain in a strong position to continue benefiting from the US-Iranian standoff. If current UN peace efforts fail, they say, the Soviets appear well placed to launch their own peace initiative, taking advantage of relations with both Baghdad and Tehran.

These analysts say the Soviets appear to be establishing a framework of economic and diplomatic ties to Iran that might provide real leverage for Soviet mediators during future Soviet-sponsored Gulf peace talks. Recent moves include Soviet efforts to facilitate Iranian oil exports through the Soviet Union and possible purchase of Iranian gas. Last month, the two nations agreed to set up a joint Soviet-Iranian shipping line in the Caspian Sea. They are also negotiating a joint defence pact.

In contrast, the US and Iran do not have diplomatic ties and at times in recent months have come close to open conflict. "The US should be in a position to neutralise (Soviet leader) Gorbachev, which it is not doing," says a Gulf-based diplomat. Instead, he says, the US Navy is close to pushing Iran into the arms of the Soviets.

"Two or three chess moves and the game is (the Soviets)," warns a diplomat from a US ally nation in the region. "The US is throwing Iran into the lap of the communists."

Others maintain it is the Iranians who are using the Soviets to make an Iranian military strategy think twice before sending US missiles or bombers toward Iranian targets.

Analysts warn that if the Soviets succeed in moderating Iranian behaviour, the Arab states will begin to turn to the Soviets as a superpower that can get results in the Middle East. At that point the Soviets can be expected to press for diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

But other diplomats say that any Soviet gains in Iran will only be temporary, and that in the longer run Arab and Persian mistrust of Soviet designs in the area will prevent Moscow from achieving more than a toe-hold.

"I don't think that many people have much sympathy for the Russians," says a well-placed Kuwaiti official. "But at the end of the day, if there is no one else, we will go to the Russians."

The Christian Science Monitor.

A trek through Afghanistan

Countless villages ravaged by Soviets

By Edward Girardet

KHYBER PASS, Pakistan-Afghan border: We leave Peshawar shortly after the morning wail of the muezzin. Hiding in the back of a jeep to bypass police checkpoints, the guerrillas move up the winding Khyber Pass to Landi Kotal, a smugglers' town deep inside Pakistani tribal territory and only a few miles as the crow flies from the Afghan border. At an Afghan supply depot, my two companions, both filmmakers, and I have lunch and then set off with our packhorses through the barren hinterland.

Before reaching the frontier, we must walk a day and a half across a sprawl of arid mountains and hot, broad valleys controlled by the Afghans, a border tribe. The guerrillas, most of them ethnic Shinwari Pushtuns from Nangarhar Province, are on good terms with the Afghans and have the right of passage. Furthermore, as the Soviets have conducted air strikes against these villages, the inhabitants are not particularly well disposed toward the Red Army, which invaded their country in 1979.

A group of tented or mud-and-stone chaikhane (teahouses), stand along a stream on the other side of the pass leading into Afghanistan. Caravans and mujahideen regularly stop here, so we pause for green tea and bread, sitting on the carpet of a hut whose ceiling is made from ammunition crates. Afghans are a very resourceful people: empty bomb shells for chairs, rocket canisters for sugar, and mine casings for naswah or snuff boxes.

Mines
It is good to have left the baking plains and gorges of the Khyber for the relative cool of the mountains. But the guerrillas warn us of mines along the trail ahead. "Personal, many mines," one says in Persian, referring to the antipersonnel charges dropped by helicopters or placed at night by Afghan government agents. Sure enough, for several miles the area is littered with scores of shallow craters and plastic remnants of detonated explosives.

The prospect of mines is extremely daunting. The clinics in Pakistan are increasingly filled with victims, many of them children. Twice in the past, I have watched in horror as mines blew the foot off a man. Recently, too, a good mujahid friend was carried back to Peshawar after stepping on a mine. It is all chillingly sobering. Assiduously,

We soon find signs of life. The packhorses have to stumble and clatter along the riverbed. This is what the Soviets used as a road for tanks when they launched their operations against villages and partisan groups in the mountains. Pieces of scrap, treads, or engine bodies from destroyed vehicles still mar the rocks and boulders. Whenever possible, we take the higher, more pleasant trails along the irrigation ducts lined with sweet-smelling sage and mint.

With its coarse valleys and live oak and pine forests, the Safed Koh ("white mountain") region is a gripping landscape, much like the mountains of the Provence in southern France or Macedonia in Greece and Yugoslavia.

People
The abandoned border villages have been ravaged by countless Soviet attacks. The dry fields are overgrown with grass, now wilted, and shrubs. It is eerie to walk through groves of shady walnut and mulberry trees, their trunks burned or laced with shrapnel, around each village. For these are symbols of Afghan hospitality, their nuts and fruit a welcome respite for weary travelers. Now you see no one, not even a dog.

Treaty
Indicative of sentiments in the region, is the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (SPNFZ). In the last two years, Australia, New Zealand and eight other island nations have signed it. The signatories pledged not to test, store, or have nuclear weapons on South Pacific soil. Despite diplomatic pressure from Australia, the US hasn't signed the treaty — which is essentially aimed at stopping France from testing and Japan from dumping nuclear waste. The Reagan administration has expressed concern that endorsing a South Pacific nuclear-free zone may foster similar zones in more strategic locations of the world. However, the US House of Representatives recently passed a resolution in support of the treaty, and a chief treaty opponent, former US Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, has retired.

Still, the SPNFZ Treaty simply "rubber stamps the existing situation," chides Firth, an antinuclear activist. The treaty does not prevent ships carrying nuclear weapons from passing freely through the area. Among the goals of Australia's "ban the bomb" movement is to push Boh Hawke's government toward New Zealand's position of forbidding nuclear ship visits. But that's improbable, concedes Firth. "It's not Australian Labour Party policy and is very unlikely to happen, he says. "It would so obviously endanger the Anzus Treaty with the US, and



Two Afghan guerrillas taking aim at Soviet troops.

we stick to the patch.

Some of the civilians, who fled during the early years of Moscow's so-called migratory genocide tactics aimed at depopulating the frontier zones, have been returning. They live among the ruins with their cows, donkeys, and chickens. Perhaps every second or third field is cultivated with corn and, in some places, marijuana. One also sees the dried stalks of poppies. Many guerrilla commanders are against opium and marijuana growing, considering it un-Islamic. But these are poor people, and the drug dealers, who operate heroin labs on both sides of the border, offer good prices.

By the time we reach the lower valleys stretching into the parched plains southeast of Jalalabad, the villages and farms are bustling. The guerrillas guide us through the thick corn. There are also rice, sorghum, beans, onions and tomatoes. As in centuries past, farmers are plowing with hulklocks for the winter crop, while sheep and goats graze the stubble of recently harvested fields.

The normalcy is difficult to believe. The last time I visited this region, nearly eight years ago, the Soviets were shelling or bombing, and the people were fleeing en masse. Now, there are no planes. And though almost every

house is damaged, men, women, and children are determinedly pursuing new lives. There are shops in the small bazaars, and several trucks daily ply the humpy 15-mile journey into Soviet-occupied Jalalabad to bring back goods such as sugar, tea, and kerosene.

The mujahideen, maintains Abdul Kadir, the main partisan commander for these parts, are able to protect the civilians because of better fighting capabilities. But it seems a fragile existence.

We stay in a different compound every night, sometimes changing locations twice a day. There is always the danger of informers. The Soviets are keen on capturing, or killing, foreign journalists and relief workers.

When not travelling, I rest or read on my charpoy, an Indian-style string bed, while little boys, toying with their ubiquitous slingshots, stare curiously.

Food
For a change, the food is good. On previous trips, notably to the northern provinces, we had to bring our own. There was simply none to spare. The crops had been destroyed and one was reluctant to take from the villagers. But here we are Haji Kadir's guests, and he insists that we have chicken, a luxury, with

rice or naan (unleavened bread) every day.

At night, sipping tea, I lie under the brilliantly starred skies, listening to the Afghans talking or praying, or catching the BBC as it crackles over the shortwave. With time on my hands, I find myself listening to everything from agricultural news to the shipping broadcasts.

More often than not, the dull explosions of distant guerrilla rockets and government artillery rumble and flash from the direction of Jalalabad. One can also hear aircraft taking off and landing. The Soviets now do much of their transport flying under cover of darkness. Occasionally, too, one hears the drone of a helicopter as it ferries supplies to the isolated garrisons.

Attack
The guerrillas take us on an attack against a nearby government fort. We travel down by truck and then wait among the mulberry trees of a farmstead in the foothills. My companions and I split up. Peter, a British cameraman, goes in with the mortar and mobile groups; I go with Chris, an Australian, to observe a rocket crew positioned on a ridge overlooking the garrison.

Artillery shells from the fort fly over our heads to smash into

the hills behind. Sometimes they explode just below the ridge, and the earth and rocks shudder. The mujahideen fire rounds around; the rockets whoosh in the desert and explode away from the fort.

As dusk sets in, it seems hardly beautiful to watch the play of fireworks, tracer rounds, and rocket-propelled grenades streak across the sky. The teams in the plain have scored several mortar hits against the garrison. We return to the villages for a late supper.

The guerrillas take us up to a markaz, or base, high in the mountains. It is a long trek through deep ravines and up a steep, winding path to the top of the forest. Earlier this year, Soviet airborne troops took the base after bitter fighting and the loss of nearly 70 men, and several planes and helicopters. The mujahideen withdrew when they could hold out no longer and the Soviets destroyed the position, blowing up the heavy machine guns, anti-aircraft batteries, and ammunition, as well as a communications network designed by two Soviet Army deserters.

The mujahideen reoccupied the markaz when the Soviets left several days later. New guns are back in action amid the wreckage. I gingerly pick my way across the blackened bunkers, exploded and unexploded cartridges, and shells. It is a sharp contrast to the beauty of the setting sun and the soft evening haze.

My two companions stay on, as I head back to Pakistan with my Afghan guide, a young, sharp-witted mujahid. We ride by horse across the stony foothills that skirt the plain.

We then trek through the mountains. I prefer walking rather than spending another excruciating minute on my wooden Afghan saddle. My guide is upset that I do not ride, so I use the excuse to lead my horse to an old mullah on his way back to Pakistan.

We walk all night apart from a two-hour kip in a bombed mosque. As we approach the frontier, a vicious thunder—and hailstorm erupts. The riverbed trail is suddenly inundated by a roaring torrent of mud, rocks, and branches. I worry that mines will get washed down and hidden under the debris.

But we reach Afghani country safely. My guide insists that I ride through the craggy gorges of the Khyber back into Landi Kotal.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Nuclear-free ideals gain credence in the Pacific

By David Clark Scott

SYDNEY: A foundation of antinuclear sentiment, laid in recent years, may seriously complicate the future of United States bases in the Pacific.

No, the streets aren't filling with rabid antinuclear activists. But nuclear-free ideals have gained credence in the Pacific.

"The idea of a nuclear-free Pacific has been legitimised in the last 10 or 12 years. Particularly, in the last few years. It has become part of the ordinary stock and trade political parlance of the South Pacific," says Dr Stewart Firth of Macquarie University in Sydney.

The most legitimising event for regional antinuclear activists was New Zealand's unprecedented ban. In 1985, Prime Minister David Lange refused to allow US ships carrying nuclear weapons into the island nation's ports or waters. New Zealand was subsequently expelled from the Anzus (Australia, New Zealand, United States) alliance.

But public support in New Zealand hasn't wavered on this issue — it has grown. In the elections in August, which saw Lange re-elected, even the conservative opposition party had an antinuclear platform.

Position
Other Pacific nations have noted the New Zealand example. "It was natural that the Bavaria coalition in Fiji (elected and then overthrown in a military coup last May) should have a nuclear-free position. The same is true with Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea," says Dr Firth, noting also that the new Philippine Constitution at least gives lip service to a nuclear-free status.

"These countries now assume that a nuclear-free Pacific is some sort of goal," concludes Firth, who just published a book on the subject entitled "Nuclear Playground" (University of Hawaii Press).

Given the island nations' experience with United States, British, and French nuclear testing in the Pacific since 1946 (only the French still explode nuclear devices in the region), it's hardly

surprising that antinuclear sentiment should develop. But it has only been in the last 10 to 20 years that many Pacific islands achieved independence, and are now testing the validity of former positions which permitted a nuclear presence in the region.

One result is that "the island states are less firmly committed to the American interpretation of the value and need for nuclear weapons than they once were," says Dr Richard Herr, senior political science lecturer at the University of Tasmania. "As time goes on, it's more probable that the New Zealand position will be endorsed by other parts of the region," he adds.

But if Australia or one of the other SPNFZ signatories comes up for consideration as an alternative host for US bases now in the Philippines, that would undoubtedly inject new life into antinuclear efforts here.

Prime Minister Hawke's government already catches a fair bit of flak over the three joint-military facilities (non-nuclear) in Australia. Philippine replacement bases would, by definition, include nuclear weapons storage sites and/or nuclear weapons carrying vessels or aircraft. So, Australia's hosting a US base would put it between a rock (its ally, the US) and a hard place (the SPNFZ Treaty, supported by the left wing of the Australian Labour Party).

The US leases on Subic Bay and Clark Air Base in the Philippines won't run until 1991. It's likely they will be renewed. But the uncertainty over their future, coupled with the buildup of Soviet capabilities in Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam means "fall-back positions are getting a closer look," says Dr Herr. And in a worst-case scenario, "the backwater states in the Pacific could become front-line states in a new balance of power."

But the nuclear-free Pacific movement does have an Achilles' heel. "Although there's an enormous amount of antinuclear sentiment in the islands, these are economically weak states," notes Nicholas MacLellan of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Network.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Burkina Faso politics

Compaore facing obstacles

By Marco Werman

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso, (AP): Capt. Blaise Compaore who replaced the charismatic Capt. Thomas Sankara after a bloody coup, says he wants a democratic consensus to emerge in his impoverished Sahel nation.

Compaore also said in a recent interview that he hoped to soon be able to publish a list of the things that went wrong during the last year of Sankara's rule.

He said an accounting must be made to learn "what divergences were taken during the last four years of the revolution under Sankara."

The new government printed a questionnaire in which people could press the views about what went wrong under Sankara. But with a literacy rate estimated at 10 per cent, Compaore will have to look for others way at developing a consultative democracy.

Feelings
Still to be resolved was the country's feeling about its new leader and the events that brought him to power.

According to Compaore, the coup had not been planned. He said a group of his soldiers acted on their own to put down what they thought was an attempt to assassinate him. It was only after Sankara had been killed that the Popular Front was formed and Compaore named head of state, he said. Many Burkina say the coup was planned and Compaore meant for Sankara to die.

Despite the scepticism, Compaore said he remained confident that a grassroots style of leadership with him at the head could work.

"Once the people tell us what to do, the West will see that Burkina has a strong support base and that no political opposition can overthrow it," he said. "If the West support us, so much the better, and if they reject us, our people will continue to find the means to be happy."

But doubts remain that Compaore is satisfied with the post-coup situation. In his first meetings with journalists in the days immediately after the death of Sankara, his close friend, he looked to be in shock and said so. Two months later, though he appears poised and relaxed. He

has rarely ventured outside his heavily guarded compound.

At the official opening ceremonies for the new sports season last month few spectators turned out, a marked contrast to the Sankara years when the event drew huge crowds. Many of those who did show threw stones at the participants in the ceremonial opening parade.

Aware
Another obstacle facing Compaore is the weariness most people feel for what seems like a continuing succession of coups and discontent within the military.

In the days immediately following the Oct 15 coup, Capt. Boukary Kabore, a Sankara loyalist, refused to recognise the new government. Elite forces loyal to Compaore easily put down the short-lived rebellion and forced Kabore into exile in neighbouring Ghana.

His forces, an elite paratroop battalion from the city of Po in the southeast of the country, clearly remain the best in the Army. As long as they remain loyal, Compaore doesn't have to

worry about being outgunned.

Compaore appears aware of the need to win popular support for his government.

He recently appointed a new leader of the CDR's, committee for defence of the revolution. Born as a voluntary organisation whose members were committed to keeping Sankara's revolution on the straight and narrow, it had deteriorated into a group of thugs routinely extorting "fines" from local residents. The heavily armed, illiterate teenagers in rust-coloured CDR uniforms were regarded as street tough who sees his position as a way to make easy money.

Capt. Bongnessan Arsene Ye, the newly appointed national commander of the CDR's wants that to change.

"Revolutionary enthusiasm and the mobilisation among the people to continue the fight has diminished," he said in an interview.

Ye said the CDR's are changing and in the process the public is going to get a chance to air its grievances over past CDR abuses.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1836 — Spain recognises independence of Mexico.
- 1908 — Earthquake hits South Calabria, Italy, and Sicily.
- 1917 — Bessarabia proclaims independence as Moldavian republic.
- 1938 — Iraq severs relations with France.
- 1942 — Japanese planes bomb Calcutta, India, in World War II.
- 1948 — Premier Nokrashy Pasha of Egypt is assassinated.
- 1950 — Chinese forces cross 38th parallel in Korea.
- 1962 — United Nations troops engage in heavy fighting in Katanga.
- 1966 — China detonates its fifth atomic bomb.
- 1968 — Israeli commandos raid Beirut airport, destroying 13 Arab aircraft.
- 1970 — Military court in Spain sentences six Basque separatists to death.
- 1972 — Four Arab guerrillas hold six hostages in Israeli embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, for 19 hours, then free their prisoners and fly to Cairo, Egypt.
- 1974 — Leftist guerrillas in Managua, Nicaragua, invade Christmas party for US ambassador, kill three guards and take several prominent Nicaraguans as hostages.
- 1975 — Efforts are made to rescue 372 men trapped by coal mine explosion in northeastern India. All 372 are killed.
- 1984 — Kampuchea guerrillas counter-attack for fourth straight day despite withering artillery fire from Vietnamese occupying refugee camp along Thai Kampuchea border.
- 1986 — Excursion train lets off its 180 passengers in Tokyo, then plunges off a bridge, killing six people, most of them in a factory below.

Marriage fever sweeps Austria

By David Lewis

VIENNA (Reuters): Austria has marriage fever, and Finance Minister Ferdinand Lacina is playing cupid.

Not that he wants to encourage wedding bells, but because from Jan 1 he is abolishing a government grant of 7,500 schillings (\$630) to every bride or groom who has never wed before.

So although winter is not the ideal season for nuptials, registry offices are doing record business as couples rush to beat the deadline.

"There's just about time to slip the ring on the finger and for the registrar to congratulate them," statistical office spokesman Kurt Bruendl said with a smile.

Bruendl's office reported that 11,607 marriages took place in Austria last month, more than four times as many as in November 1986.

Higher
The total number of marriages in 1987 is forecast to be around 70,000 — higher than any time since the year following World War Two, and 55 per cent more than in 1986.

Schlesingerplatz, Vienna's top registry office, is now marrying five times as many people as normal for December. Demand has been so heavy that the chief registrar has turned over his own bureau for ceremonies in cope with the overflow.

"We have one every quarter of an hour without a break from eight in the morning until closing time, and most people have to make do with the short form of the ceremony," spokesman Joerg Hornberg said.

Many couples long "living in sin" have been persuaded by the expiring financial incentive into making it legal at last.

"We always planned to get married anyway," blushed a Viennese teacher on exchanging vows with her accountant partner of several years.

"For people like us, the money was just an added spur,"

A very common sight, says Hornberg, has been of couples exchanging rings under the watchful gaze of their offspring.

And on two occasions in the pre-New Year rush, Schlesingerplatz has sent registrars into prisons to conduct wedding ceremonies for prisoners.

The marriage rate has soared ever since September, when Lacina announced he was abolishing the grant as one of a package of measures to cut the country's budget deficit.

The marriage measure alone is expected to save the exchequer 600 million schillings (\$52 million).

The Austria-wide October figure of 5,650 weddings was up 130 per cent this year, and December's rise will be even higher than the 313 per cent increase registered in November.



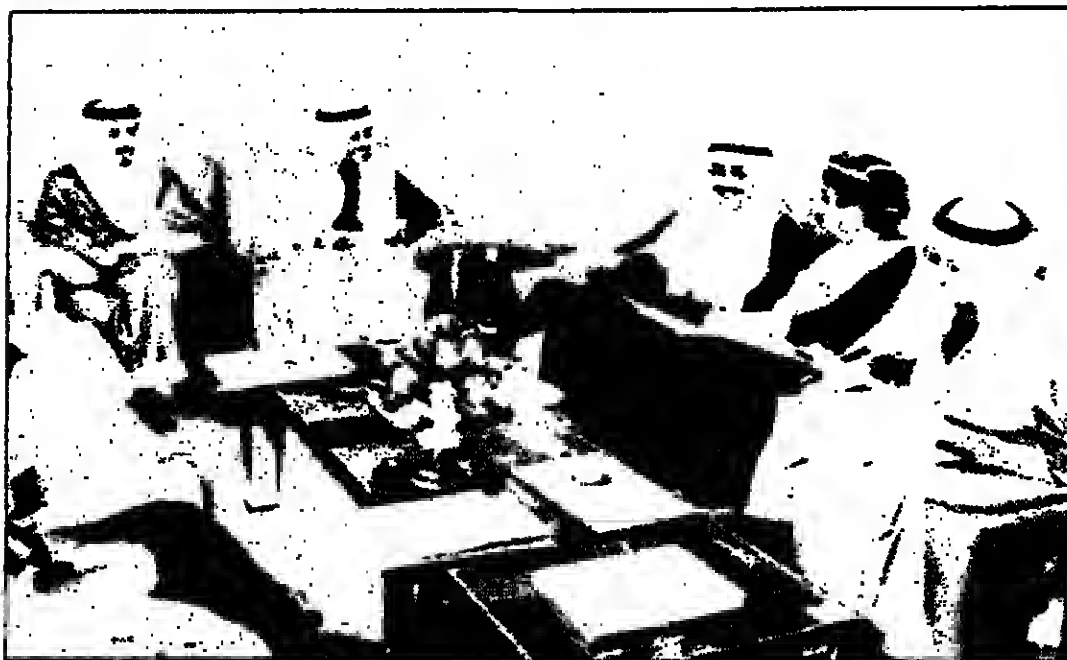
TWO would-be skiers take a ride up the chairlift at this winter resort today despite the lack of snow. The weatherman predicts continuing mild weather for the near future with no snow in sight. (Reuter radiophoto)



THIRTY-FOUR handcuffed Palestinian youths leave an Israeli military court in Nablus yesterday after being charged with throwing stones or burning tyres during unrest in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The army arrested at least 800 Palestinians in the violence. (Reuter radiophoto)



LYNETTE "SQUEAKY" FROMME, shown in 1975, follower of mass murderer Charles Manson, was captured on Friday near the Federal Correctional Institution for Women in Alderson, West Virginia, from which she escaped late December 23, US marshals said. Fromme was jailed for life for the attempted assassination of President Gerald Ford. US Marshal James Hickman said Fromme had been alone when captured and had offered no resistance. He said she had been hiding in woods near the prison. (Reuter radiophoto)



KUWAIT'S Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi (third, right) discusses oil market matters with other ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh yesterday at the six nation summit. The Qatar News Agency reported that the six decided they would loan oil to one another in emergencies and that efforts to help Opec keep stable oil prices would be continued. (Reuter radiophoto)



POLICE investigators look over the damage caused by an explosive device hurled into a bar in Barcelona on Saturday. At least three US Marines, who were on shore leave, were injured, one seriously. Witnesses said they saw a young man throw the device into the bar before running from the scene. (Reuter radiophoto)



AN army officer stands over Kalashnikov rifles captured from three Arab commandos after they infiltrated into Israel from Jordan and clashed with Israeli troops. (Reuter radiophoto)



THE motor-powered glider Tyrol flies by Mt. Fuji on Saturday near the end of its 20,000 kilometre flight from Austria. The light-weight plane, piloted by Japanese Takashi Kato and Makoto Miyazawa, flew over 23 countries in Europe, the Middle East, South and South-East Asia in 38 days and arrived at the glider airport at Sekiyado, west of Tokyo. (Reuter radiophoto)



SWEDISH police have released this picture showing a man dressed as Santa Claus robbing a bank in Ollared, Sweden, shortly before Christmas. He escaped with about \$22,500. (Reuter radiophoto)



A FILE picture showing French-born hostage Jacqueline Valente (right) with her Belgian friend Fernand Houdekens, who along with her two daughters and four other close relatives were captured by the Abu Nidal group on November 8. Ms Valente recently gave birth to another daughter during her captivity. (Reuter radiophoto)



EIGHTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD comedian Bob Hope presents a Christmas show to US seamen and marines aboard the helicopter carrier "Okinawa" in the Gulf on Christmas Day. (Reuter radiophoto)



VENDORS cry price discounts to lure tens of thousands of shoppers swarming to Tokyo's busiest shopping street of Ame-Yoko yesterday on the year's last Sunday as they prepare foodstuffs for the coming New Year holidays. (Reuter radiophoto)



ONE of more than 30 dolphins that have died in the Atlantic Ocean and washed ashore lays on Dayton Beach on Saturday. Researchers from Sea World of Orlando were at the scene to attempt to find out why so many dolphins have washed up on shore over the past few days. (Reuter radiophoto)

The feet of Hollywood in his hands

Shoemaker to the stars

By Georgina Gold

ITALIAN shoemaker Salvatore Ferragamo knew all the secrets of the most famous pairs of feet in the world.

He knew how Clara Bow, sex symbol of the 1930's, agonised over her extra large feet.

He marvelled at the perfection of the Duchess of Windsor's perfect feet while helping John Berrymore solve his rather un-star-like problem of flat feet.

It is not without good reason that Ferragamo was known as Shoemaker to the stars — Sophia Loren, Audrey Hepburn and Bette Davis are just some of the top names who bought his creations.

He also achieved fame in his own right as creator of the style loved or hated by all — the wedge shoe.

Salvatore, who died in 1960, had a hard road to fame and fortune.

His was a classic rags to riches story of the country-boy-made-good.

Born in 1898 in Bonito in Italy, he was the eleventh of 14 children born to a poor farming couple. At the tender age of nine he left home to find work. His ambition was to follow in his older brother's footsteps and emigrate to the United States.

Even as a young boy he reputedly had "a vocation to make shoes" but his parents, despite their poverty, refused to allow their young son to practice a trade they saw as the lowest of the low.

But he refused to be put off by his parents' stubborn attitude.

Once, as the rest of his family slept, he stayed up all night to make a pair of tiny white shoes for his sister's first communion.

In this single act of defiance Salvatore had launched himself well and truly on the route to fame.

His next step was to get an apprenticeship with a cobbler, and by the age of 14 he had set up his own workshop in Bonito with six employees older than him.

He excelled at making

Salvatore Ferragamo rose from rags to riches to become the world's most famous shoemaker. Italy's place at the forefront of shoe fashion today is largely due to his pervasive influence and stylish footwear.



Salvatore Ferragamo, with one of his famous customers, film star Audrey Hepburn in 1954.

elegant shoes and very soon, the women of Bonito were able to get stylish footwear locally without having to travel the long journey to Naples.

His ambition soon outgrew the confines of Bonito and he spent the last of his savings on a boat ticket to the United States.

But, on arrival, he soon rejected the American ideal of mass-produced low cost shoes.

American shoes described by him as heavy and clumsy seemed to be the very antithesis of quality. "They were graceless, with points shaped like potatoes and heels like lead."

Instead of adopting American shoe-making methods, Ferragamo opted for custom-made shoes and, with the help of his brothers, opened a shop in Santa Barbara.

Eventually, he won a contract with the American Film

Company and in 1923 he moved to Hollywood. Fame came quickly.

He formed close links with the screen industry at a time when film making was at its height.

He was commissioned by such big names as director Cecil B De Mille and James Cruze to supply shoes for many of their films.

He made the boots worn in The Birth of a Nation (1915) and the sandals for The Ten Commandments (1924).

With his talents he soon overcame the problem of the ugly uncomfortable boots worn in the popular Western movies.

His specially-designed styles proved successful. They both looked the part and were comfortable.

This achievement prompted

the legendary quote from Cecil B De Mille: "The West would have been conquered earlier, if they had had boots like these."

Rudolph Valentino and Mary Pickford were among the first private customers Ferragamo attracted and his reputation spread.

Over the years he became familiar with all the peculiarities of the feet of the stars which he charted in his autobiography, "Shoemaker of Dreams."

The real beauty of Ferragamo shoes was they were tailor-made with no expense spared.

Striving for the perfection, which became his trademark, Ferragamo measured all his clients' feet following the strictest of rules.

From these dimensions he constructed a pair of wooden lasts on which to style the shoes, sometimes making several for one client to allow for different heel heights.

Today the extensive Ferragamo collection includes customers' wooden lasts inscribed with such legendary Hollywood names as Ava Gardner, Rita Hayworth, Bette Davis and includes royalty — Soraya of Persia, for example.

He allowed for changes in the shapes of feet by amending the lasts with layers of paste and shaped leather for a better fit.

He took college courses to study the anatomy of the foot to understand why deformities occurred and how to deal with them.

His immense dedication to his craft showed when he spoke about the feet he dealt with day in, day out.

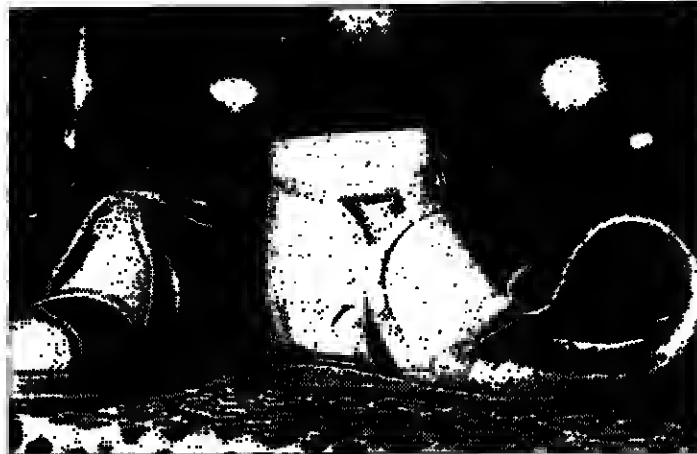
"They talk to me" he would say, and he claimed to be able to tell a great deal about someone just from holding their feet.

After fitting a secretary out for some shoes he told her he detected latent creative talents.

The woman was Anita Loos, who went on to write "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

Ironically, his massive popularity forced him to leave his adopted home America.

Rising sales meant producing many more shoes to satisfy the seemingly insatiable demand.



A sandal designed by Ferragamo and worn by one of the soldiers in the 1924 film 'The Ten Commandments'.



A bizarre ladies' shoe with a 13 cm heel. Designed by Ferragamo it is thought to have been worn by Judy Garland.

But, in true Ferragamo style, he refused to sacrifice the quality of his hand-made shoes and returned to his native country, Italy, in 1927.

Italy's place at the forefront of shoe fashion today is largely due to his pervasive influence and his stylish footwear.

Since his death his work has been continued by his wife Wanda and five children.

His daughter Fiamma has redesigned a selection of his original designs, modified to today's fashions, which are on sale in their London Bond Street store.

The 3,000 strong collection of Ferragamo shoes has to be seen to be believed — no material was too expensive, no style too lavish for this genius.

Lace, crocodile skin and even 18-carat gold were materials used by Ferragamo to satisfy the whims of customers.

But, during the depression of the 1930s, he demonstrated his

immense versatility in coming up with unique new ideas on a low budget.

While other designers used cardboard from chocolate boxes Ferragamo went one step further and used the transparent wrappers — twisting them into strands.

This was the forerunner for the wild new fashion fad for see-through uppers, known as the invisible shoe.

His greatest invention, the wedge, came about following a shortage of quality steel in Italy.

Steel was used to reinforce the arches of his shoes but Ferragamo designed what was known as the orthopaedic shoe, with a sole and heel made from cork wedges.

Three years before his death Ferragamo wrote his autobiography.

In it he spoke of his satisfaction at having increased the export of Italian shoes all over



Early Wedges: a selection of some of the very first wedges designed by Ferragamo.

the world.

He said: "It makes me very happy to have made the humble trade of shoemaker respectable, raising it to a position of eminence within the world of fashion, and to have re-opened

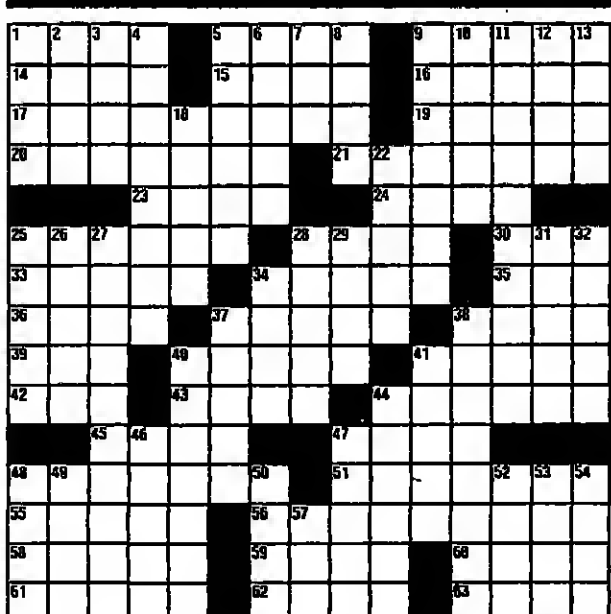
women's eyes to the pleasures of good shoes, not different from those of wearing a well-fitting hat, dress or fur."

"Above all, I am proud to think that Italian shoes are everywhere in great demand."



The construction used by Ferragamo to record the measurements of his clients' feet.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Hawaiian port
 - 5 Dessert treat
 - 9 Delicious, e.g.
 - 14 Asian sea
 - 15 Mixture
 - 16 Educate
 - 17 Polishing agent
 - 19 Recorded
 - 20 Like some fog
 - 21 Numbs
 - 23 Straighten
 - 24 Designer of distinction
 - 25 Household needs
 - 28 Reposed
 - 30 Hammerskjold
 - 33 Immobile
 - 34 Roles
 - 35 Hockey name of fame
 - 36 Rabbit's feet
 - 37 Chef's measure
 - 38 Bend, in ballet
 - 39 Election winners
 - 40 Author Ayn et al.
 - 41 Untrue
 - 42 Sheriff's asst.
 - 43 Morsets
 - 44 Subsided
 - 45 Old, in Essen
 - 47 Leaf gatherer
 - 48 Seams
 - 51 Mideastern kingdom
 - 55 Pick up the check
 - 56 O'Neil movie
 - 58 To the point
 - 59 Regular
 - 60 — Domini
 - 61 Donkeys
 - 62 Welshman
 - 63 Famous loch
- DOWN**
- 1 Fastener
 - 2 Dies —
 - 3 A Turner
 - 4 Seniors

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

CUSP WISE FLUB
ASIA ANTI OAREO
NEXT SNAG UNITE
ARTIST THIRMAN
HOER TOT
BAS CEDE CHEFS
ALE OLIVE EXILE
CONAN RES SOFIA
HISED TRAILT TOS
FERNS TUNA HEY
ARA STEW
FIRSTOFF TETHER
ADIEU TINA YETI
ROGER EDEN MEAD
LAKIE RIDOT ALLIS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 72 ♠ 9542 ♦ KJ93 ♣ 875

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♦ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—What you want to do is tell partner you have a hand with excellent trump support and neither first nor second-round control of any side suit. There is a bid available that says just that—a jump in the suit you like. Bid five diamonds.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A6 ♠ AKQJ52 ♣ — AQ1073

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—From the first question, you should know that partner has at least four good trumps and little else. Since you expect to be able to draw trumps in no more than three rounds, you will be able to discard all of dummy's spade losers on your good hearts and ruff your losing spade on the board. Bid seven clubs. (Switch the suits in Q. 1 and see how the hands match.)

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 7 ♠ AKQ62 ♠ A5 ♣ KJ965

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Potentially, you have a very good hand—if you can find a fit. A jump to three clubs on a potential

misfit could easily rob you of the room you need to probe for the best spot. Bid two clubs. Unless partner can act again, this hand is going nowhere.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KJ943 ♠ A7 ♠ AJ8542 ♣ —

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♣

What do you bid now?

A.—From a hand that might have been going nowhere, you should now be thinking in terms of a possible grand slam. The way to communicate your joy to partner is to cue-bid the enemy suit. Bid three clubs.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9762 ♠ 7863 ♦ QJ93 ♣ 6

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

A.—If you could be sure that partner has a four-card fit for one of your suits, and if you could be sure the bidding won't get beyond two in that suit, you might have been willing to act. But since there are no guarantees, any action by you courts disaster, whether you play four-card majors or five. Pass.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q10762 ♠ 9 ♦ K8753 ♣ 84

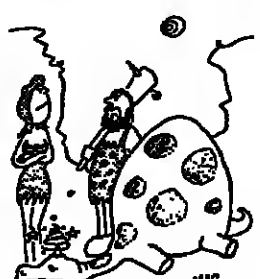
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You have tremendous offensive potential but little defense, and your fifth spade ruins partner's defensive potential. Make it as difficult as possible for the opponents to enter the auction. Jump to four spades.



"I'll have to take you off filling the frozen food cabinets, Mabel."



"And don't drown it in gravy!"

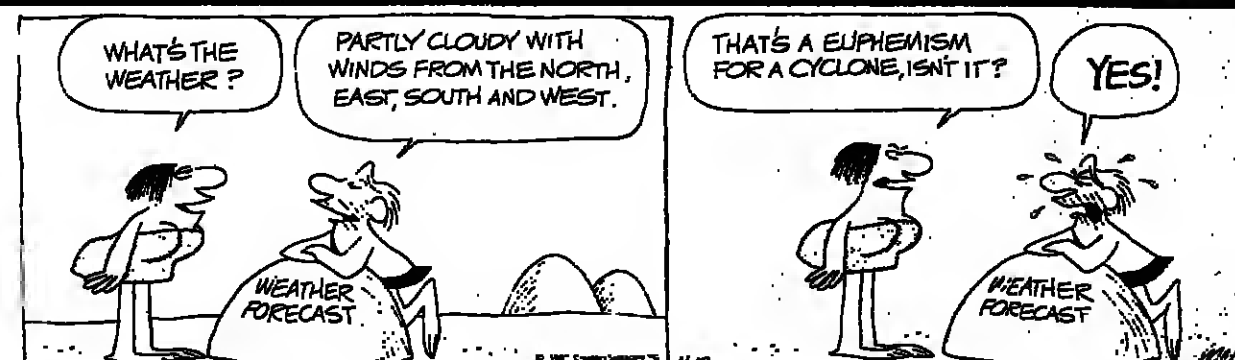
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You will tend to feel rather aggressive and should try to counter this tendency. You should not allow your attention to wander. Do not rely too much on others. Be consistent.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You will have something to be quite pleased about. You will have to revise certain of your plans and should be quick about it. The issue should be faced head-on rather than evaded. Be fair.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
The situation is good but you must deal with a tendency to say more than you should. Avoid telling others just what you think of them. Things are not quite what they seem to be. Be tactful.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
The Moon's better influence will help you to get your facts right. You will also find it easier to make up your mind. You should do all you can to relax. Be more affectionate.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
This is going to be a good day for you. You should not place too much reliance on your intuition. You will get some news which is not as good as it seems to be. Be realistic.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
The prospects are good but you must not just wait for things to happen. Attend first to what is most important. Details can wait until later. Do all that is possible to keep love alive. Be loyal.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You must make sure you face up to your responsibilities. Try to be a little more accurate. Do not believe that things are just what they appear to be. Be reasonable.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You should refrain from being too impulsive and you must not just do the first thing that comes to mind. Avoid allowing some secondary matter to take up too much of your time. Do not bear a grievance.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
This is a good day for discussions. Do not expect others to do you favours every day of the week. Take sure you allow plenty of time for traffic jams if you want to be on time. Be sensible.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You must have the courage of your convictions. Do not leave it too long before you try to reestablish contact with an old friend. You should not be quite so aloof. Be more methodical.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
You should try not to get into a heated argument. Make sure you are not late for an appointment. Do not do anything that you might be ashamed of later on. Be responsive.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
You will be able to come close to meeting your targets but only if you work really hard. Venus's influence will help you to be a little more kindly disposed towards someone you do not greatly care for.

The results can be humiliating, dangerous

Watch out when the lady seeks revenge

By Judy Byrne

WHEN a woman thinks a man has done her wrong — watch out!

The lust for revenge can bring out a whole range of responses, from creative to ruthless.

The result can be humiliating, dangerous — but never funny for the victim.

One way or another Britt Ekland, Kelly Le Brock and ex-wife Alana have all given Rod Stewart something to think about — just as Brigitte Nielsen has done to Sylvester Stallone and Debbie Reynolds did to Eddie Fisher. Then there's what Jerry Hall did to Mick Jagger.

But it is not only the famous who have ways of making a man wish the floor would open up and swallow him.

Sandra Beaumont, wife of the £100,000-a-year general manager of Colt Cars UK was unhappy about the affair she suspected her husband was having at work. So she went to the factory, bearded him in the boardroom, and had a smashing time.

According to workers at the factory, Mr Beaumont tried to cover up by announcing a bomb scare and sending everyone home.

When tempers had cooled, the couple, who had already begun divorce proceedings, issued a joint statement about her having "caused a small amount of damage... when she was very upset."

Complicate

There was nothing muted about the way Kelly Le Brock bowed out of Rod Stewart's life either. Rod had been sharing his favours with model Kelly Emberg, when he decided to take her to Spain.

Kelly Le Brock, left behind in his palatial Malibu beach house, was furious. So she threw the wildest party she could to wreck it before she packed her bags and moved out.

The lust for revenge, when a woman feels her man has done her wrong, can take strange twists. Her fury can find ways of bringing Hollywood stars, tycoons and even politicians to their knees.



Carly Simon (L) and Warren Beatty. Her hit song "You're So Vain" was said to be about the casonava star.



of it — and Rod's life — forever.

To complicate matters more, Rod was not yet divorced from Alana, ex-wife of George Hamilton, and mother of his first two children.

She was due to stay the following weekend so cleaners had to be called in to get rid of the mess. And she left a note behind her after the visit — a bitter farewell. It read: "Attention all sluts. Hands off my clothes."

Rod's love — em-and-leave — lifestyle has given him a lot of experience of aggrieved women.

Britt Ekland bowed out with a large (but undisclosed) out-of-court "pallimony" settlement after they lived together. Nor did she spare Rod in her autobiography.

She accused him of stinginess in their three years together.

She had to pay him for the upkeep of her children as well as footing the bill for the nanny. She said she even bought groceries for his parents.

Sylvester Stallone's first ex-wife, Sasha, had twice withdrawn divorce petitions before Brigitte Nielsen erupted into his life and bowled him over. Sasha's third application cost him around \$40,000,000.

And Stallone, who had arrived in Hollywood with \$5 in his pocket, lasted only 18 months with Brigitte before divorce negotiations were opened.

And Brigitte hit him not just in the pocket but in his pride. Stallone boasted that, with a little bit of help from a plastic surgeon, he had turned Brigitte from a 34-inch model to his 40-inch-bust dream girl.

More recently, she has appeared topless on the arm of

her new Italian stallion, millionaire banker, Lucio Rossi.

Whether Brigitte was getting her own back or simply making up for lost time we may never know. But she couldn't have hit him where it hurt more if she had tried.

The same had to be said for Debbie Reynolds when Eddie Fisher left her for Liz Taylor 30 years ago. Debbie, aided by photographs of her with their two children, begged the public's sympathy after the break-up and won her custody of them.

Fisher's popularity took a nosedive, and, soon after, Liz Taylor met Richard Burton. End of story!

Jerry Hall, who seems to have got Rolling Stone Mick Jagger house-broken after a womanising career, believes in direct action first and revenge only if that fails.

She says: "I throw away any telephone numbers I find in his clothes."

"If that doesn't work, I just pick up the phone and call the richest man I know."

Mick is unlikely to call her.



Sara Keays (L) and UK cabinet minister Cecil Parkinson. She got her own back when he jilted her by publishing a book about their affair and his career.

bluff. For she has already proved how far she will go.

When Mick, now 44, was going through a mid-life crisis and took to dating younger women in public, Jerry took off in a blaze of headlines with rich racing man Robert Sangster.

And she stayed away until Mick followed her to talk things over.

Carly Simon was more discreet. To this day she refuses to confirm that her song "You're So Vain" is about Warren Beatty.

But nor does she deny that it refers to the Casanova whose lineup of ex-girlfriends includes Gaille Hawn, Joan Collins, Britt Ekland, Julie Christie, Leslie Caron and Diane Keaton.

Witty American columnist Nora Ephron was seven-months pregnant — and hopping mad — when she learned that her husband, Watergate reporter Bernstein had been having an affair with Margaret Jay.

Margaret was the daughter of the then British Prime Minister, James Callaghan, and wife of the then British ambassador to Washington, Peter Jay.

Nora turned her divorce into



Mick Jagger and companion Jerry Hall.

a best-seller (complete with film rights) in a thinly-disguised novel, "Heartburn".

Sarah Keays had a 12-year affair with Cabinet Minister Cecil Parkinson for whom she worked as secretary. She had political ambitions of her own, but when she became pregnant, she claims, she was jilted.

The publication of her story as a book, "Question of Judgment", resulted in him being banished to the back benches' wilderness in Parliament for several years.

Now he is back in the swing as Energy Secretary, but Sarah, who says their daughter, Flora, is epileptic, is about to take him back to court for more money for medical bills.

Pierrette Le Pen, walked out on her right-wing playboy politician husband after 25 years of marriage, when she was 50.

That was three years ago. But when he said she should go out and earn her own money when she claimed maintenance, she did — by posing for "Playboy" magazine as a provocatively under-dressed maid doing the housework.

"It was no less than he deserved," she said. And that's not all. Watch out for her book early next year. "That will be the end of him," Pierrette promises.

When 68-year-old Greek leader Papandreu declared his love for 33-year-old red-head Dimitra Liani, he did not realise he was stirring up quite such a hornet's nest.

His wife, Margaret, 63, began to be inundated with encouragement from other women to take him on at the polls.

It is beginning to look as if Mrs Papandreu, who admits she even had a facelift to try to save her marriage, has enough support to have a serious chance of success.

Talk about beating a man at his own game!



Greek politician Papandreu and wife Margaret. She decided to stand for an election when she heard of his indiscretions.

Life remains second class for women of Asian subcontinent

By Malcolm Davidson

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): For the old woman squatting beside a heap of stones in a busy Delhi street, a hammer in her hand, life is unending drudgery.

"It's work," she said simply as she broke stones to mend the road.

Her life might be considered particularly wretched. But 40 years after much of the subcontinent gained its independence, most women have yet to emerge from a life of subservience.

This is despite Sri Lanka providing the world's first woman Prime Minister in Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Indira Gandhi ruling India for almost two decades up to her death in 1984 at the hands of Sikh assassins.

Women's group in India say the lot of women has barely changed, particularly in the countryside where two-thirds of the population live.

The birth of a girl is often considered bad luck, a son a boon, and high technology medicine can play an unwitting part in making sure a family has a boy.

Women's groups say amniocentesis tests designed to detect abnormalities in a foetus, are used instead for sex tests, which can lead to an abortion if the expected child is a girl.

40 years after much of the Asian subcontinent gained its independence, and in spite of two female prime ministers and three budding leaders most women have yet to emerge from a life of subservience.

Boys traditionally get the lion's share of attention. 47 per cent of them end up being able to read and write, compared with 25 per cent of girls. In rural areas the inequality is even worse.

In Nepal, there is no movement to campaign on behalf of women, almost 90 per cent of whom are illiterate and whose lives are characterised by early marriage, high fertility, poor health and a life expectancy of only 43 years.

A Terai plainswoman in Nepal is not allowed to speak to her husband's older brothers or sometimes, her father-in-law.

Fidelity

In India and Nepal, the idea still holds that a woman is looked after and protected by her father while a child, by her husband after marriage and by her son in old age.

The majority are still harried in arranged marriages, where the bride and groom barely meet before the ceremony. But once married, a bride's problems might only just be beginning.

Demands for extra dowry gifts, although illegal, often continue after the wedding, with the bride facing cruelty and sometimes death at the hands of her new family.

A woman's ultimate act of fidelity, some believe, is to commit suicide by throwing herself on the funeral pyre of her husband, thereby becoming a demi-goddess.

But the grim death of an 18-year-old bride in September on her husband's cremation pyre sparked outrage in India and the tightening of laws against suttee and those who abet it.

According to Madhu Kishwar who runs Manushi, a Delhi-based magazine devoted to women's rights, a woman can break out of the vicious cycle. But much depends on her family.

"If a woman has the sympathy and backing of her parents, and not only from a powerful family, there is absolutely no limit to what she can do in India," she said.

In Pakistan's male-dominated society, educated women can work as doctors or teachers

but very few work in offices and only then in the big cities.

Village elders in some parts of North-West Pakistan ban women from voting in elections to save them from the gaze of unrelated males while they wait to cast their ballots.

Across the border in Afghanistan, however, left-wing politics and nine years of guerrilla war have brought women out of their traditional seclusion.

Government officials say that in the Kabul area alone, some 6,000 women are doing duty as armed guards.

In Sri Lanka, too, civil strife has pushed some Tamil girls to the frontline, where they have been seen fighting alongside men in the guerrilla battle for an independent Tamil state in the island.

Although 87 per cent of Bangladeshis are Muslim, women there have largely cast aside the veil and are now allowed to work in offices and factories.

India has one woman cabinet minister and Sri Lanka two. But often the women who have made it to the top in south Asia have come from powerful families or succeeded close relations killed in political upheaval.

Indira Gandhi was the daughter of independent India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Sri Lanka's Bandaranaike was elected



The politics of widows and orphans: L to R: Hasina Sheikh, Benazir Bhutto and Khaleda Zia.

prime minister in 1960, succeeding her assassinated husband and holding the job for 12 years over two terms.

In Bangladesh, two women spearheading an opposition campaign aimed at forcing out President Hossain Mohammad Ershad both became public figures in the aftermath of political murder.



Sheikh Hasina was barely known until her father, Bangladesh's first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed in a coup in 1975. Begum Khaleda Zia took to politics only after her husband, president Ziaur Rahman, was killed in an abortive army mutiny in 1981.

Benazir Bhutto is one of a



handful of women who have surmounted Pakistan's social and religious customs, taking on the mantle of her father, executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

"It is a common third world tradition," said veteran Pakistani politician Khabazi Khairuddin. "It is the politics of widows and orphans."



The birth of a girl is often considered bad luck, and a son a boon.

Equality: Soviet women have had enough

By Robin Lodge

MOSCOW, (Reuters): Many Soviet women have had enough of "emancipation" and want to go back to the traditional roles of housewife and mother, according to letters to the Communist party daily newspaper Pravda.

Out of hundreds of letters on the subject Pravda said were sent to it, almost all those published affirmed that women would willingly stop working if they could afford it.

Very few Soviet families exist on a single income. With average earnings in urban areas at around 280 roubles (\$450) a month, and even less in rural areas, wives have little choice but to work.

Under the Soviet constitution, women are guaranteed equal work opportunities, but in practice the better paid jobs tend to go to men.

"When you get women directors, that's equality," wrote one woman from Donetsk in Ukraine, "but women-labourers, that is nothing more than ruin."

She was pointing to the fact that in the Soviet Union, many of the toughest physical jobs are performed by women.

On Moscow building sites the labourers are mostly women. In winter, the gangs of workers with shovels and picks chipping the ice off the frozen streets tend to be women. In shops and warehouses, much of the heavy loading work is done by women.

At Moscow's central market, tough looking peasant women can be seen daily rolling giant barrels of salted cucumbers or fish off trucks as men stand idly by.

Official statistics indicate that women also form the majority in some professions, more women than men are doctors and schoolteachers. But these are comparatively poorly paid, and heads of departments still tend to be men.

In addition, the vast majority of working women take full responsibility for household tasks and child care after completing their eight-hour working day.

When asked about this apparent inequality, the usual response is one of resignation: "that's just the way it is," was how one Soviet woman put it.

The concept of the emancipated man, who cooks, cleans and takes care of children is remote for most Soviet people. And to judge by the tone of some of the letters, the idea is unappealing.

"Women should strive less towards higher duties, and be closer to the family and home. Men have obligations, and women theirs. Men should be men, and not housewives," wrote one woman from Moscow.

Her view were echoed by another writer: "Let men work 10 hours a day, let them earn more money. But let women stay with their children that's how it should be."

Articles in the official press have chided men for shirking housework and described the stresses faced by working women with families.

But despite this, there are no feminist movements on similar lines to those in the West.

For most people, emancipation is embodied in equal voting rights, the opportunity to work and the observance of Women's Day on March 8. And in celebrating the latter, the chief theme is woman as wife and mother, rather than women's achievements in the workplace.

Among the letters to Pravda, one stood alone in defending the achievements of Soviet women at work rather than in the home.

The author, a veteran party worker from Irkutsk in Siberia wrote: "Feminine emotions have not prevented many remarkable women from running enterprises."

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA: A LYMPHATIC SYSTEM CANCER

QUESTION: Please tell me about a cancer called non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

ANSWER: Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is a cancer of the lymphatic system, a circulatory system made up of lymph nodes, the spleen, the thymus glands and a clear fluid called lymph. The lymphatic system is a primary part of your body's immune system and it fights infections. Lymphoma is the name for any cancer that develops in lymph tissue.

The most common kind of lymphoma is Hodgkin's disease and this is why all other lymphomas are called non-Hodgkin's. There are three main types of non-Hodgkin's — lymphocytic lymphoma, histiocytic lymphoma and mixed-cell lymphoma — but they are all basically similar.

The most common symptom of non-Hodgkin's is a swollen lymph node in the neck, groin, or armpit. Bear in mind that swollen nodes are relatively common,

because they occur during many kinds of infections in the body. Swollen nodes are not a definite sign of cancer, but should be investigated by a physician. In about a third of non-Hodgkin's cases, no swollen glands are seen. Other symptoms of this disease include fever, loss of appetite, bone pain and a general weak feeling.

The only way to diagnose non-Hodgkin's is to have a small piece of an affected lymph node removed and examined microscopically (that's called a "biopsy"). If non-Hodgkin's is diagnosed, further tests will show how far it has progressed.

Treatment for non-Hodgkin's can be either radiation therapy or chemotherapy, depending on the extent of the disease.

QUESTION: How often does a headache mean a stroke is coming on?

ANSWER: Headaches are one symptom of a stroke — the interruption of blood sup-

ply to a part of the brain, or inflammation or rupture of a blood vessel — but not all headaches mean that a stroke is coming on. Considering the vast number of headaches in the United States in a given year vs. the number of strokes, I wouldn't worry too much about an occasional headache.

However, because headache can be an important warning of a stroke, it is wise to be cautious about certain types. Beware of any extremely severe headache — one far worse than any other you ever had. Take note of a headache brought on by exertion, a severe headache that lasts more than a day, or one that gets gradually worse, severe headaches after age 35 or any headache that is accompanied by any lessening of consciousness. If you notice any neck stiffness or unsymmetrical reflexes during a headache, tell your doctor, promptly.

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

BUSINESS & FINANCE

The dollar was the wild card throughout the year

Stocks ride rollercoaster to end '87 where they began

NEW YORK, Dec. 27, (UPI): Stocks are ending 1987 just about where they began, but in between was a rollercoaster ride to unprecedented heights followed by a frightening 23 percent plunge as panic struck one fine autumn day.

The Dow Jones industrial average started the year at 1895.95 and snared through seven century marks to more than 2700 in eight months. The hull market marked its fifth year in early August, and nervous but excited investors watched as the Dow industrials peaked at an incredible 2722.42 on Aug. 25.

But the next day the closely watched Dow, which represents 30 of the nation's premier companies, began a jagged two-month decline that culminated in the worst-ever single-day plunge on Black Monday, Oct. 19.

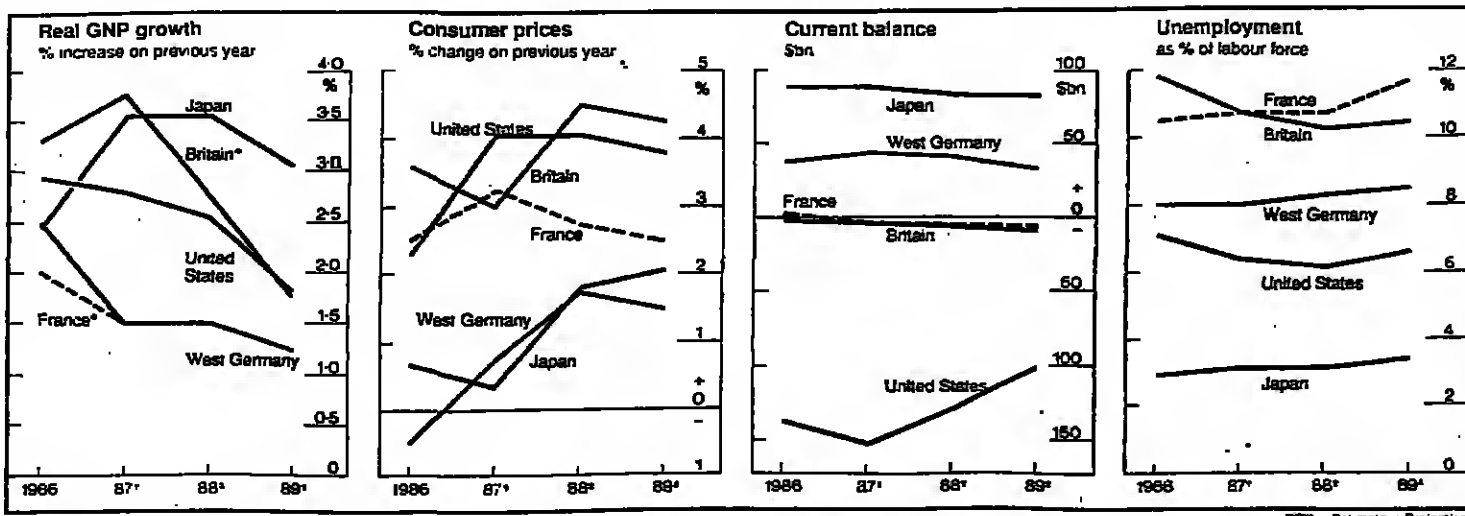
In what New York Stock Exchange chairman John Phelan Jr. described as "the nearest thing to a meltdown that I ever want to see," the market fell apart as the Dow Industrials plummeted 508 points to close at 1738.74.

Recovery

Following two weeks of turmoil that included three more trading sessions in which the Dow shot up or down by more than 100 points, the market stabilised and began a gradual recovery to levels that analysts considered a better reflection of true values. The industrials closed at 1867.04 on Friday, Dec. 11.

It was a wild ride. "There were the most spectacular swings in sentiment and valuation we've seen in a long time," said Michael Metz of Oppenheimer and Co. "It ranged from unrestrained jubilation in August to utter despair in October. The funny thing is the real world didn't change all that much."

"We have all lived through the most interesting time in our professional lives that we proba-



bly ever will see," said Francis Schott, chief economist of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, an understatement with which most financial professionals, stock-market watchers and investors would agree.

1987 illustrated the close connection between the US stock market and foreign stock exchanges, foreign currency markets and the credit markets. Domestic political considerations in each of the world's major economic powers and relations among them further complicated the picture.

"Back of the whole year is the realisation of how vulnerable the (stock) market is to the problems of the (trade and budget) deficits, debt, the dollar, higher inflation and interest rates and ultimately trouble in the economy," said Allen Sinai, Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc.'s chief economist. "In those periods of the year when those worries weren't around, the market did extremely well. But when data reminded investors of those worries when the market did its worst."

The dollar was the wild card throughout the year.

"The focus in 1987 has been on the dollar and all these gyrations and efforts by finance ministers to stabilise the dollar," said Hugh Johnson, head of the Investment Policy Committee at First Albany Corp.

Effort

"Not on the economy and how well or poorly it was doing but on the dollar," he continued. "And we have to conclude at a minimum that if anything failed fundamentally in 1987, it was the effort to coordinate foreign exchange trading. It was an interesting effort but one that did not succeed, and in my estimation it was the principal reason for the crash in stock prices."

Finance officials from the Group of Seven countries — the United States, Canada, Britain, West Germany, France, Italy and Japan — met in Paris the weekend of Feb. 21. In what became known as the Louvre Accord, the ministers agreed to try to stabilise currency exchange rates at then-current levels.

In 1985, five of those nations (Canada and Italy joined the group later) agreed to try to lower the dollar's value from its high levels at the time to help the United States reduce its trade

and budget deficits by cutting the prices on American exports while discouraging US consumers from buying foreign goods.

But by early 1987, US officials had become concerned that the value of the dollar would decline so far against the West German mark and the Japanese yen that economic expansion in the United States and in turn the world, might be threatened.

But the steps agreed to in Paris failed to arrest the decline in the dollar, and the Federal Reserve board moved unilaterally to protect the US currency. Schott said the G-7 ministers overestimated the extent to which the US trade deficit would be cut after the Louvre Accord.

"Although they admitted the trade deficit had not yet improved, everyone said it would have to," Schott said. But while US exports actually increased, imports also had risen as foreign manufacturers fought to maintain US market shares.

The Dow industrials, which had risen as high as 2405.54 on April 6, dipped to 2215.87 on May 20 before resuming an upward trend.

"Enormous liquidity, foreign funds flooding into US equity markets and individual retirement account investments powered the markets advance through the first months of the year," said Prudential-Bache Securities Inc. market analyst Larry Wachtel.

"But from 2200 (on the Dow industrials) on, we were in dicey valuation territory," Wachtel said.

Still, prices advanced through the summer.

On June 16, the Dow industrials hit 2407.35, closing above 2400 for only the second time. A month later the average passed 2500, ending at 2510.04 on July 17. The average closed above 2600 for the first time on Aug. 10.

On Thursday, Aug. 13, the fifth birthday of the bull market that began in August 1982 with the Dow at about 779, the index closed at 2691.49, a record that stood over the weekend.

It was broken the following Monday and three more times in the next six trading sessions

before the blue-chip barometer topped out eight days later at 2722.42.

But analysts were skeptical. Alan Ackerman, Gruntal and Co. senior vice-president, said upward momentum and a concentration of foreign buying in blue-chip issues "masked an overall weakness... (among) nervous sellers who thought the market moved up too fast."

"It became, frankly, a party where there was a high degree of inebriation," Ackerman said. "We began to see too much enthusiasm and we lost sight of the fundamentals."

Most observers thought stock prices had outstripped levels justified by the intrinsic worth of the companies.

"In hindsight, we will find out that this explosive move... drove the market to extremely overvalued levels," said Joseph Barthelemy, director of Technical Strategy for Philadelphia-based Butcher and Singer Inc. "You have to go all the way back to 1929 to see a similarly overvalued situation."

As the dollar weakened again in late August interest rates began to rise, luring global buyers to the US credit markets and pressuring the stock market as investors sold equities to reap more attractive returns from bonds.

"At that point, bonds became very attractive relative to stocks, and at the same time, the overall outlook for the economy darkened," First Albany's Johnson said.

During September and October, "circumstances conspired to create a situation in which it appeared the dollar could be defended only by raising interest rates," Schott said. High interest rates hurt the stock market in several ways, such as increasing returns on bonds raising the cost of borrowed money used to buy equities and threatening to curtail economic growth.

World Business Summary

GCC ministers study economic integration

RIYADH, Dec. 27, (Reuters): Finance ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) discussed today legal mechanisms needed to implement the group's 1981 joint economic agreement. Saudi Arabian Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Khail, who chaired the meeting on the sidelines of the GCC summit, told Reuters it discussed regulations which would allow Gulf companies and people to do business throughout the states. The six — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have approved a list of professions which their citizens may practise throughout the GCC. But GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Abdullah Al-Quwaiiz told Al-Riyadh newspaper further regulations were needed.

"We have said the (GCC) citizen could practice industrial, commercial, construction and other activities (throughout the GCC), but we did not draw up the regulations," he said. "So when we started implementation some countries found difficulties in dealing with a citizen when giving him a license." Officials said the economic focus of the four-day summit which opened on Saturday was on consolidating existing measures rather than initiating new ones.

The GCC has already abolished customs tariffs on inter-GCC trade and moved toward unifying customs duties on imports in a bid to create a common market. The last GCC summit in Abu Dhabi in November 1986 agreed to allow GCC citizens to practise wholesale trade anywhere in the GCC from March 1987 and retail trade from March 1990.

It also allowed investors to get loans from all GCC development funds.

Aba Al-Khail said the ministers also discussed joint ventures. "We agreed that the Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) should take the initiative in suggesting new projects to the various Gulf states and to follow up the execution of these projects," he said.

The GIC, established in 1982 with capital of \$2.1 billion has approved 10 projects and is now discussing 20 others, Aba Al-Khail said.

Chinese students seek jobs in private sector

BEIJING, Dec. 27, (AP): College graduates in Beijing increasingly are turning their backs on the state's job-assignment system and are hunting jobs on their own in the private sector, a newspaper reported today. The Guangming daily quoted an unidentified college official as saying that almost all the graduate students who would receive degrees this year at his school had begun to make job contacts on their own. Instead of government jobs, once the most desirable, the students are seeking positions in collectively and privately run enterprises, now the economy's most dynamic sector.

A woman in the personnel department of the Stolic Corp., a 3-year-old Chinese computer service company, said that each day, five or six students come in and a dozen letters of inquiry arrive. "There is no lifetime employment here since job contracts are signed once a year," the newspaper quoted the unidentified woman as saying. "The reason why so many students come to ask for work here is that they like the atmosphere of fierce competition and high work efficiency in our firm." Under a system established when China's economy was almost entirely centralised, graduates of middle schools and colleges generally are assigned jobs by the state. Students who refuse an assigned job must wait three years to get another official assignment.

In the past, only those with high-placed parents generally were able to find jobs on their own.

Since 1978, however, China's leaders have encouraged the development of private and collective enterprises, which have become a source of alternative employment.

The official media recently has begun calling for a freer labour market and noting that both students and employers often are unhappy with the assigned job system. Many students wind up in jobs that don't make use of their skills, while employers complain that the students lack necessary training.

Sugar growers get sweet deal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, (AP): Americans are paying more than twice the world price for sugar because of what growers call necessary government price supports. But critics claim the system is perhaps the most blatant protectionism practiced by the United States. The arrangement has US consumers paying 18 cents or more per pound for sugar. The world price is about 8.5 cents. The higher price, propped up by the government, is strongly defended by the nation's 10,000-plus sugar growers. They say federal help is all that keeps them from being wiped out by unfair world competition.

But critics say the system is a textbook example of "special interest" legislation that is costing consumers up to \$3 billion a year, or \$100 for the average family of four, the critics claim. Several lawmakers have introduced bills aimed at cutting the price of domestic sugar. The legislation would also increase sugar imports, easing the rigid quota system the government uses to drop up domestic prices. The quota regimen, while complicated, boils down to supply and demand.

The secretary of agriculture is directed by law to guarantee American sugar growers 18 cents a pound. But Congress, though it created the system, has directed that no taxpayer funds can be spent to ensure the protected price.

Secretary Richard Lyng opposes the programme, but says his hands are tied. Each year, the secretary must set the quota by computing the ratio of US production to consumer demand, which has been shrinking for about the last 10 years.

American producers get the lion's share of the demand, and imports are left with the ever smaller portion unmet by American sugar. Commercial sugar customers, like confectioners, bitterly oppose the quota, since it limits their ability to buy cheap sugar. But the system enjoys the support of a broad congressional coalition of lawmakers with agricultural constituents.

Oman exchange to open next year

MUSCAT, Dec. 27, (AP): Oman's first stock exchange is due to open in the fall, Commerce and Industry Undersecretary Ahmed Macki was quoted as saying in today's daily Observer newspaper.

Exchange regulations have been finalised and are being studied by the Central Bank of Oman, he said.

Oman and Bahrain, further north up the Gulf, are moving closer to establishing stock exchanges in an effort to stimulate private investment in industry.

Like other oil-dependent states, they want to diversify their economies and break reliance on oil amid a weakened world oil market.

Kuwait is the only country in the region with an official stock exchange.

It suffered a setback in 1982 when an official exchange dealing in foreign shares collapsed because of \$96 billion in postdated checks. But authorities have been slowly repairing the damage.

Macki said the Oman exchange was expected to open in the third quarter of the new year, initially limited to shares in local companies. At present Oman has 74 joint stock companies.

Oman is also to introduce legislation controlling investment companies before March, he said. At present no such law exists.

"They use investors' money," he said. "There should therefore be some control over their activities to safeguard the interests of investors."

Moscow and Egypt to double trade

CAIRO, Dec. 27, (Reuters): The Soviet Union and Egypt plan to double their trade over the next three years, Soviet Deputy Trade Minister Vladimir Burmistrov said in Cairo today.

"I will sign a new trade protocol raising the volume of trade from \$500 million to \$1 billion during this visit," he told reporters after arriving for talks on a new 1988-1990 agreement. Egypt exports textiles, leather and liquor to Moscow and imports Soviet industrial and farm machinery.

Although the United States has been Egypt's main superpower ally since the 1970s, Moscow's ties with Cairo warmed after it rescheduled \$3 billion of military debt last April.

New gold fever hits ancient Saudi mines

BAHRAIN, Dec. 27, (Reuters): Ancient gold workings deep in the mountains of Saudi Arabia are catching the footstep of geologists intent on making one of the most detailed assessments of the mines since they were discovered 3,000 years ago.

Deposits at Mahd Adh-Dhabab, 275 km northeast of Jeddah, were first exploited around 1,000 in 950 BC, and historians believe they may have been the fabled mines of King Solomon, who is mentioned in the Bible.

Mahd Adh-Dhabab lies with some 600 ancient gold workings in the country's western Hijaz mountain range, an area which was mined extensively in the distant past.

Exploited

But, except for a brief period from 1939 to 1954 when the Saudi Arabian mining syndicate exploited Mahd Adh-Dhabab, the deposits have given up little of their treasure since the Abbasid Caliphate from 750 to 1,000 AD.

This is about to change. Mining sources say that since Hisham Nazer replaced Ahmed

Zaki Yamani as Minister for Petroleum and Minerals late last year, Saudi mineral policy has shifted.

Faced with budget austerity following a decline in oil revenues, the emphasis in the mineral area is no longer on geological survey but on exploration and exploitation, and the government is courting the private sector to do the job.

"After 10 years of making maps, the government has decided it's time to see a payoff," said a foreign geologist working in the kingdom.

Project

Early next year the state-owned General Petroleum and Mineral Organisation (Petromin) completes its project to start Mahd Adh-Dhabab up once again and begins producing gold.

Sweden's Boliden AB, technical advisers to Petromin at Mahd Adh-Dhabab, told Reuters earlier that the mine would have an annual output of around 3,000 kg (just over 100,000 ounces) of gold smelted from around 120,000 tons of ore. At just under \$500 an ounce,

annual production would be valued at \$48 million.

Geologists say Saudi Arabia will never become a major gold producer but the mountain range is speckled with deposits that in other countries would have mining firms rushing for a stake.

Besides Mahd Adh-Dhabab, two other deposits have been identified as promising.

Geologists say the Al-Amar deposits 200 km (125 miles) southwest of Riyadh could be as big as Mahd Adh-Dhabab, and on November 23, 13 companies submitted bids for an exploration licence at the site. The licence will be the first to be awarded after competitive bidding by the private sector.

The geologists say a second site, Sukhaibar at another 250 km (155 miles) north of Mahd Adh-Dhabab, is not as big as Mahd or Amar, but still exciting. And they believe it is likely a lot of potential for exploitation has been missed.

"Al-Amar is now quite exciting, but exploration at other areas is still at the grass roots. They need to get the private sec-

tor interested," said one.

This is apparently what Nazer has in mind. He told officials during a visit to the Deputy Ministry of Mineral Resources (DMMR) in Jeddah his policy was to involve the private sector.

Enthusiasm

The new enthusiasm may be a bit one-sided. Mining companies have learned to be wary of business in Saudi Arabia, citing a number of bad experiences.

The British company Consolidated Goldfields PLC, which did exploration work at the Mahd Adh-Dhabab deposit, expected to get the mining lease. It was given to the state-owned Petromin.

The Jeddah-based Arabian Shield Mining Company spent years exploring the Al-Masane copper, nickel, gold and silver deposits in the south of the country, but now has been waiting for a mining lease for four years.

Bids for the DMMR's main mineral exploration contract have been called for twice, but after two years it has yet to be awarded. Reduced government oil revenues have been blamed.

Alarm bells ringing ahead of major Soviet economic reform

MOSCOW, Dec. 27, (Reuters): Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika have combined to produce a startling political effect in the days leading up to the next major stage of Soviet economic reform.

With 60 per cent of the country's industry due to convert to new operating conditions on January 1, the Soviet press is increasingly filled with articles accusing government organs of practices violating the theory behind the reform.

Unthinkable

Such commentary would have been unthinkable under former Soviet leaders. Made possible by glasnost, Gorbachev's openness policy, it has opened a Pandora's box of challenges concerning the progress of perestroika, or economic restructuring.

The law on state enterprise, adopted last June, aims to make the economy work more efficiently by giving industrial managers greater decision-making autonomy and making firms responsible for the cost of their operation.

"Having received the state order for 1988, we saw there could be no talk of the sort of autonomy envisaged under the law on state enterprise," a disgruntled factory director from the Don region wrote in the country's leading economic weekly.

"There are record-breaking

ministries which have submitted assignments to enterprises for 105-110 per cent of their capacity," the outspoken weekly Moscow News declared in a report on a round table of economic managers.

Problem

"The problem cannot be solved under the existing limitations," said Yuri Chudakov, a senior Civil Aviation Ministry official, referring to fuel supply problems facing the national airline Aeroflot as it prepares for the conversion.

Under the reform, ministries which formerly imposed production targets through the state plan are now supposed to interact with industry on a more flexible basis, replacing 'command-orders' with 'state contracts' for which firms would compete.

Enterprises must account for expenditure and pay workers from an internal wage fund without help from the state under what is being called self-accounting and self-financing.

But they still depend on ministerial allocations for resources, and will not have the right to set their own prices.

Affects

The reform affects construction, transport and areas of agro-industry as well as the manufacturing sector.

With the approach of the January 1 deadline, leading progressive economists who serve as

advisers to Gorbachev have appeared on television and published articles to promote the reform as a vital link in the country's economic renewal.

Leonid Abalkin declared that the command methods imposed on industry since the Stalin era had outlived their usefulness.

"The state contract is limited in nature, because it covers only the most important, priority tasks of strategic or social significance," he said, adding that contracts with the state would be the most profitable form of production for industry.

Industrial managers in the field do not share his view. Increasingly loudly, they are saying that imposition of state contracts by overzealous ministries is preventing them from establishing potentially advantageous direct links with other customers, as permitted under the new law.

Moreover, they say, their resource allocations do not allow them to fulfil the state contracts, let alone other orders.

And heavy ministerial levies are leaving some firms with just 10 per cent of their earnings for self-financing.

The director of the Azot chemical firm in the Don Basin said his enterprise had carefully calculated its projected earnings and expenditures before being hurried with 1988 state contracts which far exceeded expectations.

BA, United Airlines announce worldwide marketing partnership

BRITISH Airways and United Airlines have announced a worldwide marketing partnership. The announcement was made by Jim Harris for British Airways and John Zeeman for United Airlines in New York City.

Speaking on the partnership in London, British Airways Chief Executive Sir Colin Marshall said, "The agreement represents an imaginative and creative initiative that will increase our influence in the US and worldwide market. Given the restrictions currently applying to ownership of US airlines and the fact that we do not compete directly with United Airlines we see this type of arrangement as the best way forward. As liberalisation spreads worldwide we would hope to see a greater strengthening of our position in a number of markets through co-operation with other airlines."

Merger

In New York Harris and Zeeman called the partnership a "marketing merger" of two of the world's biggest and most successful airlines and one that will give each carrier a greater presence in parts of the world where the other is the leader. "This alliance will create the world's most powerful airline team," said Mr Harris.

"Added to our joint work in the field of computer reservation

services it will bring British Airways vastly increased penetration of the vital US market. It is a blueprint for the aviation world of the 1990s and beyond."

Facilities

Under this arrangement customers will benefit from shared facilities including shared terminals at Seattle, Chicago, Washington and New York City, co-ordinated schedules, joint pricing, one-stop check-in service and marketing programmes. Agreement has been reached on a wide range of marketing initiatives and the two carriers are looking at other ways to further the partnership. Both plan to explore the opportunities to negotiate food service provisioning, to examine the utilisation of general sales agents and review the possibility of sharing ticket offices at a number of international and domestic destinations.

Also being implemented is a programme geared to the cargo shipper and freight forwarder at attractive combined prices.

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Yield curve on KD funds expected to assume firmer tone

Pace of world economic growth slows

THE downdrift in KD rates has gone a long way during 1987, with much of the achievement realised during the last month of the year. There is little doubt that the public debt programme, launched towards the end of November, provided regulators with a powerful tool to control liquidity and fine-tune monetary policy, according to National Bank of Kuwait's weekly market report.

The initial stages of the debt scheme have, indeed, been instrumental in pushing down the cost of money. The continued imbalance between plentiful market liquidity and limited supply of new treasury instruments coupled with the competitive auctioning system, tended to depress yields. This trend was further supported by the presence of Central Bank during the tender period, offering short-term funds to the market.

Over-subscribed
The imbalance between supply and demand is clearly portrayed by high over-subscription ratios scored over the successive issues. Thus, treasury bills, which were 2.57 times over-subscribed during the first issue, came to be 3.32 times over-subscribed during the third, and last-to-date, issue. The excess demand for bonds was even more pronounced, with a 7.80 ratio during the last issues.

This naturally translated into low, and declining yields on T-bills: from an average of 5.41 per cent for the first issue, to an average of 3.73 per cent for the third one. Over the same period, the coupons on bonds were trimmed by 1/8 per cent.

Not surprisingly, interbank rates dropped to record lows with one- and three-month funds effectively dealt at 3 3/4 per cent and 4 7/8 per cent respectively.

Saudi riyal rates barely changed

BAHRAIN, Dec. 27, (Reuters): The Saudi riyal interbank market was almost at a standstill today, with dealers in the Kingdom and offshore market of Bahrain reporting minimal trade.

Rates were indicated around yesterday levels, with one-month at 4-3/4, 1/2 per cent, three-month at 5-5/8, 3/8 and six-months at 6-1/2, 1/4. Short-dates were also barely traded.

The market has now virtually wound down for the year-end, with activity also low ahead of publication of Saudi Arabia's 1988 budget, now expected on Wednesday.

With most banks squared ahead of year-end, interest in fixed periods dried up almost completely in the last two weeks of December. Short-dates remained well offered at 1 1/2-1 1/2 per cent, but found no takers.

However, with the resumption of normal activity in the New Year, the yield curve on KD funds is expected to assume a slightly firmer tone.

Appreciation
During the month of December, the Kuwaiti dinar scored a substantial 1.2 per cent appreciation against the dollar, but lost some ground against most other hard currencies. This is a typical scenario when the greenback suffers a marked decline on the exchanges.

On December 27, the dollar was quoted at 272.86 fils in the local market, as compared to 276.10 fils at the beginning of the month. Over this period, it moved within a high of 276.76 fils and a low of 272.72 fils. It scored an average value of 274.55 fils.

The sterling, undermined by softer oil prices, was the only major currency — other than the dollar — which suffered some depreciation vis-a-vis the KD. It ended the month at \$0.541, down 0.2 per cent from its opening level. Its average for the month was 499.7 fils.

The yen, in contrast, was the currency that appreciated in the local market. It ended at 217.93 fils, up 4.4 per cent from its 208.74 fils opening level. It had an average of 212.19 fils and moved within a range of 206.95-217.93 fils.

Finally, the Deutschmark registered a limited 0.5 per cent appreciation against the KD, ending at 169.42 fils. It fluctuated within a relatively narrow range of 165.39 fils to 169.42 fils and scored an average value of 167.23.

Although the unprecedented fall of the international equity markets last autumn does not necessarily mark a prolonged period of recession, its aftermath will very much be determined by the effectiveness of co-ordinated policy adjustment. Until there are clear indications of a commitment to embrace a global programme to correct the trade imbalances and US desire to lower its budget deficit, the present co-ordinated "huddle" policies, whilst preventing a sharp recession, will continue to provide sub-potential growth only. The consequent downward revision in global activity will probably take an original estimate of 3-3.5 per cent to an at best 2-2.5 per cent performance, with world trade in volume terms anticipated to expand in tandem.

For the first nine months of 1987 the foreign exchange markets appeared increasingly to come under the control of concerted central authority action and to lesser extent increased confidence of a perceived willingness to greater policy co-ordination.

However, in the absence of comprehensive measures to deal with the yawning global trade imbalances and US budget deficit, the Louvre agreement to exchange rate and policy co-operation remained inherently unstable. Arguably action to underpin the dollar through central authority intervention and piecemeal policy changes alone only transferred volatility to the bond and equity markets.

The dollar's precipitous fall in final quarter of 1987 reflected the growing consensus amongst policy-makers and outside commentators alike — that the dollar had to go lower to allow an adequate correction to the trade

deficit. However prospects for achieving financial equilibrium for 1988 remain limited and although declining modestly, a US current account deficit estimated at best \$130 billion still represent, a heavy global investment and saving distortion. Irrespective of the dollar's increased competitiveness, sluggish Western growth and continued financial difficulties amongst the major debtor nations suggests the demand for US exports will remain weak.

Further, countries which have enjoyed a high rate of growth (mainly those in the Pacific rim), and could theoretically increase their imports of US goods will continue to be reluctant to change an exchange rate policy which has allowed their currencies to move in tandem to the dollar — hence wiping out the US unit's competitive advantage.

Any meaningful improvement will have to come from the contraction in imports. Anticipated lower oil prices and weaker domestic spending combined can be expected to have a salutary impact on import demand.

Consideration
A G-7 meeting anticipated early 1988 will reiterate a commitment to stable exchange rates (a repeat of the Louvre accord at the present lower ranges) and may provide for a period of short-term stability. However in that optimism for further meaningful measures to correct the trade imbalances and a US endeavour to narrow its budget deficit — in a presidential election year — remains slim.

Exchange rates will continue to be determined by the trade disequilibrium. As a consequence further downward correction for the dollar over the

coming year is probably inevitable.

The US funding requirement will remain a paramount consideration in policy formation and by inference to global economic strategy, whilst its very existence will continue to overshadow and threaten the stability of the financial markets. Policy in the US to a large extent is now caught in a fine balancing act between concerns of a lower dollar rekindling inflationary fears and the need to maintain sufficient interest in dollar denominated assets set against the requirement to provide adequate growth in the run up to the elections.

There is little doubt that policy emphasis has shifted dramatically with the equity market crash from concerns over the prospects of rising inflation to one of avoiding a recession. Strict observance to the growth of monetary aggregates will for the most part take a back-seat to the need to support aggregate demand. Total inflation for the industrial countries is estimated at 3.2 per cent for 1987 and despite persistent inflationary fears expected throughout 1988 on the back of a lower dollar, in reality against the lower growth projections and subdued commodity prices, inflation numbers are unlikely to be much higher than 1987 out-turn.

Requirement
However less because of inflation numbers and more the requirement to maintain the interest rate differentials to support investor confidence in US assets, interest rates in the US have probably just about reached their cyclical floor in the aftermath of the equity collapse. Against the international environment, policy elsewhere will continue to remain mildly accommodative.

Structural changes needed in the American economy

US goods flowing abroad in widening stream

OAKLAND, California, Dec. 27, (AP): Stacked in huge steel containers seven levels high below deck and five high above, America's goods go to market in Asia on a "floating skyscraper" from one of the world's busiest ports.

The ships leaving the Port of Oakland were not always so heavily laden as the towering, 850-foot (260 metre)-long President Garfield is on this gray, misty day — certainly not with the machinery, electronic goods and other finished products now going out with increasing frequency.

In the early 1980s, the US dollar, its value galloping upward, held American exports in check and opened the country to a flood of relatively cheap imports. Now the declining dollar is getting credit for boosting exports.

Attractive
The strong dollar made imports very attractive and it made exports almost non-existent, said Timothy J. Rhein, president and chief operating officer of Oakland-based American President Lines, largest US container-ship line to the Pacific.

"Unfortunately, what has evolved over the past 20 years is that the United States has become an exporter of raw materials that wind up coming back in the form of finished products," he said.

Comes back
Cotton comes back as clothing, chemicals, plastics and resins come back as toys and plastic goods. Animal hides return as jackets, purses and shoes. Wastepaper comes back as corrugated boxes for packaging.

The high dollar also had depressed the market for some of America's basic commodities, sending some foreign manufacturers to other countries for raw materials and deepening the trade imbalance.

But, said the man who ships the goods, the dollar's plunging value is enabling the United States to begin to reclaim part of the market it once held for finished goods, while exporting record amounts of agricultural and other raw materials. But it is only a beginning.

Limited
"We're starting to see some of it," Rhein said. "Some parts of manufacturing, high-tech manufacturing, automobiles being built in the United States for export to Japan and Taiwan, but it's a very limited number. When we start shipping more manufactured goods, then you'll see a more balance of trade based on value out and value in."

As of now, he said, the No. 1 commodity export to Asia is wastepaper.

"It is a travesty for the United States of America to be exporting nothing but wastepaper," Rhein said.

Economists generally say a declining dollar alone cannot right the US trade imbalance. They say structural changes in the American economy are needed — basically, greater investment to expand productive capacity.

Total liner vessel exports from the West Coast, mainly Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oakland, Portland and Seattle, for the first

half of 1987 amounted to 8.6 million tons, an increase of 13.7 per cent over the same period in 1986.

Total imports to the West Coast on liner vessels for the first six months of this year were 10.1 million tons, an increase of 19.9 per cent over the same period.

Although imports continue to grow faster than exports, the gap between their growth rates is narrowing. "Where it's been greatly out of balance, now it's running about even, and that is attributed to the cheap dollar," said David Westerman, vice-president of marketing and sales for CF Ocean Service, a subsidiary of giant Consolidated Freightways of Palo Alto. He sees a "leveling" development between imports and exports.

Differing
Depending on whether tonnage of dollar value is measured, differing pictures emerge.

Exports from Oakland-San Francisco to Asia jumped in the six months through June to 2.6 million tons from 2.2 million in the same period the year before. But the total dollar value of those goods increased only slightly to \$2 billion from \$1.9 billion in 1986. Meanwhile, the total dollar value of imported goods from Asia grew much more, in part as a result of the dollar's plunge.

Asian imports to Oakland-San Francisco in the first six months were 1.4 million tons, unchanged from 1986, but the dollar value of those goods rose to \$5.1 billion from \$4.4 billion.

American President Lines has five giant container ships being built in West Germany sensitive to world economic change.

"The drop in the dollar has caused some relocation of the import manufacturing base to places that are less affected by the relationship of foreign currencies to the dollar," Rhein said. "For example, the Hong Kong and Chinese currencies are less volatile, as are the Singapore dollar and Philippine peso, than the Japanese yen."

The shipping executive said the US demand for Asian products does not seem to diminish.

Foreign Currency Selling Rates

Kuwait-India Int'l Exchange Co.		Kuwait Western Exchange Co.	
Tel: 2422699-2422733 2422788-2422733		Tel: 2468165/168167 5744157-5757163	
Indian rupees	21.130	Indian rupees	21.200
Sri Lankan rupees	09.000	Sri Lankan rupees	21.200
US dollars	273.20	US dollars	273.200
Sterling	505.25	Deutsche marks	171.000
UAE dirhams	74.500	Swiss francs	201.000
Deutsche marks	170.100	UAE dirhams	74.400
Japanese yen	02.195	French francs	51.000
		Jordanian dinars	810.000

Indian Exchange Corporation W.L.L.		Al Kazemi Int'l Exchange Co.	
Tel: 2465810-2465812 Fahaheel 2922024-2918087 Farwaha 4739665		City Br. 2422770/4/6/8 Salmiyah 5751785-5740701 Amman 3982251	
US dollars	273.300	US dollar	273.000
Sterling	506.000	Sterling	505.15
Swiss francs	210.160	Deutsche mark	169.90
Indian rupees	21.230	Swiss franc	208.90
Sri Lankan rupees	9.000	Japanese yen	218.40
Singapore dollars	138.170	French franc	050.20

Canara Exchange		United Trading Group, Kuwait	
Tel: 2468462/3 2437295-2437300		Tel: 2420115-2420116	
Indian rupees	21.230	US dollars	273.200
Arabian rupees	9.000	Sterling	505.150
US dollars	273.200	Deutsche marks	170.000
Sterling	505.500	Swiss francs	208.950
UAE dirhams	74.500	French francs	49.900
Philippine pesos	13.600	Japanese yen	218.600

Swiss francs	210.160	US dollar	273.00	Bahraini dinar	724.90
Indian rupees	21.230	Sterling	505.15	S. Yemeni dinar	796.20
Sri Lankan rupees	9.000	Deutsche mark	169.90	N. Yemeni riyal	28.80
Singapore dollars	138.170	Swiss franc	208.90	Saudi riyal	73.30

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KUWAIT City, (Behind Sheraton Hotel). Accommodation for 2 bachelors. Tele. Tony 2420399-49/2423801.

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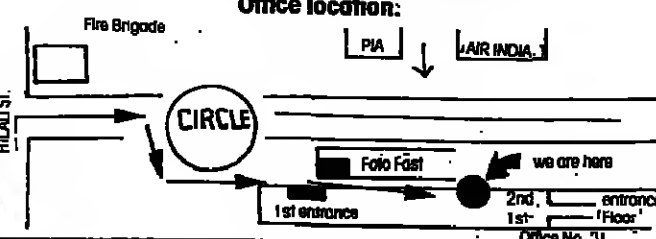
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مكتبات الأمل

CAVALIERS SNAP TRAIL BLAZERS' WINNING STRING

Lakers tame Jazz for 8th straight win

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 27. (AP) Byron Scott scored 26 points and the Los Angeles Lakers outscored Utah 15-0 in the final 3:28 en route to a 117-109 NBA victory over the Jazz yesterday for their eighth straight win.

Scott scored the Lakers' final eight points, including six from the free throw line.

John Stockton put the Jazz ahead 109-102 with 3:28 remaining, but Utah did not score again.

After Stockton was awarded a basket on a goaltending call, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar scored underneath, Michael Cooper scored a 3-point basket and Magic Johnson, who had 25 points, tied it 109-109 with 1:40 left.

Remaining

Scott put his team ahead for good on a field goal with 1:00 remaining, then he finished out his scoring with six straight foul shots.

Utah's Karl Malone, who finished with 26 points and 14 rebounds, scored 10 points in the first quarter as Utah went on a 27-12 run and led 35-22 with 1:51 remaining. Thurl Bailey, who also scored 10 during the first quarter, finished 18.

Kelly Tripucka, used sparingly this season, finished with 21,



Abdul-Jabbar scored 17 points

including 5-for-5 from 3-point range. The Jazz trailed 90-83 going into the final period, but

Trippucka scored three of his 3-point goals and Malone scored nine points to help the Jazz come

back. Jabbar finished with 17 and James Worthy had 16 for Los Angeles. Johnson finished with 14 assists.

Stockton had 14 points and 15 assists for Utah.

In Richfield, Ohio, Craig Ehlo made a 20-foot jumper to break at 116-116 tie with 27 seconds left, and the Cleveland Cavaliers came back from a 16-point deficit in the first half to end the Portland Trail Blazers' five-game winning streak last night with a 120-117 victory.

Ehlo's basket broke the 16th tie of the second half, and Phil Hubbard sank two free throws with five seconds to play, putting the game out of reach.

Jerome Kersey brought the Trail Blazers within a point at 118-117 when he made one of two free throw bounced off the rim as he was whistled for a lane violation.

Hubbard was then fouled by Clyde Drexler and hit both free throws for a three-point Cleveland lead with five seconds left. A 3-point shot by Portland's Terry Porter missed badly at the buzzer.

In Atlanta, Dominique Wilkins scored 37 points and Cliff Levingston added a career-high 29 to lead the Atlanta Hawks to a 125-98 victory over the New

York Knicks.

Levingston, a strong forward in his fifth pro season, also set a career high with 17 rebounds as the Hawks, 18-7, improved their home-court record to 11-1.

The Hawks went ahead to stay with a 14-2 run late in the first quarter during which Wilkins hit eight and Levingston got the other six to put Atlanta up 34-23. The Knicks scored the next 10 points to pull within one, 34-33.

But the Hawks ended the second quarter with six straight points to take a 63-48 halftime lead. Atlanta gradually widened its lead, going up 93-71 at the end of the third period and leading by as many as 30 points late in the final quarter.

New York, 8-18 and 1-11 on the road, was led by Bill Cartwright with 21. Patrick Ewing had 16 and Sidney Green 14.

For the Hawks, Randy Wittman had 12, John Battle, Wayne Rollins and Glenn Rivers each had 10.

Results

Indiana	106	Chicago	92
Lakers	117	Utah	109
Atlanta	125	New York	98
Cleveland	120	Portland	117
Detroit	110	New Jersey	75
Dallas	105	Houston	100
San Antonio	105	Golden State	96
Milwaukee	102	Washington	97
Denver	115	Seattle	111
Sacramento	112	Phoenix	110
Boston	106	Clippers	97

Redskins dent Vikings' playoff hopes

Browns retain AFC Central title

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 27. (AP) Bernie Kosar threw a short touchdown pass, Earnest Byner ran 2 yards for a score and the Cleveland defence did the rest as the Browns clinched their straight AFC Central Championship yesterday by defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers 19-13.

The win, which gave the Browns a final record of 10-5, assured Cleveland of at least one home game in the playoffs. It knocked Pittsburgh, which finished at 8-7, out of any hope for a wild-card playoff berth.

And while Kosar was 21 of 36 for 241 yards and Bahr kicked field goals of 31 and 30 yards, the win was largely the work of the Cleveland defence, led by linebacker Eddie Johnson, in a game filled by numerous minor

scuffles between the arch-rivals. Pittsburgh's only touchdown came on a 45-yard interception return by Cornell Gowdy with 7:33 left in the game.

The last of those brawls led to the second Cleveland touchdown — a roughing penalty on Pittsburgh's Delton Hall after the Browns had been stopped at the Pittsburgh 7 five minutes into the fourth quarter and were ready to settle for a field goal.

Instead, it gave the Browns a first down at the 4, setting up Byner's 2-yard touchdown run that made the score 19-6 with 9:36 left in the game.

Cleveland's only other touchdown came in the second quarter on a 2-yard TD pass from Kosar to Derek Tennell.

The Pittsburgh offence, mean-

while, got only field goals of 39 and 27 yards from Gary Anderson and was limited 221 total yards.

And in Minneapolis, Ali Haji-Sheikh, who missed a 33-yard field goal with 46 seconds left in regulation, kicked a 46-yarder 2:09 into overtime, as the Washington Redskins prevented the Minnesota Vikings from earning the final NFC wild card spot with a 27-24 victory.

The Vikings, 8-7, won't be in the playoffs unless the Dallas Cowboys can defeat the St. Louis Cardinals this evening. If St. Louis wins, the Cardinals would also finish 8-7 and would be the NFC's last playoff entry based on overall conference record.

Haji-Sheikh's winning three-

pointer was set up by a 36-yard kickoff return at the start of overtime by Ricky Sanders, who also caught eight passes for 64 yards and touchdowns of 51 and 46 yards. After Sanders' return, he caught passes of 22 and 10 yards from Doug Williams before the winning kick.

The Redskins, 11-4, can play host of their opening playoff game if the Chicago Bears lose this evening to the Los Angeles Raiders.

Washington's first touchdown came on a 100-yard interception return by Barry Wilburn, the longest in Redskins' history and the longest ever against the Vikings. Wilburn's TD with 5:15 left in the second quarter tied the game 7-7 after Alfred Anderson's first scoring run had given Minnesota the lead.

Rosi keeps diet under control

PERUGIA, Italy, Dec. 27. (UPI) Italy's Gianfranco Rosi, who admits to having a sweet tooth, isn't yielding to the temptations offered by the holiday season table as he prepares for a Jan. 3 defence of his World Boxing Council junior middleweight title.

"Things are under control," said Rosi, a big fan of sweets and other non-training table delights. "I go crazy for chocolate. But it's not conducive to maintaining my diet."

Rosi, 42 wins and two losses, takes on American challenger Duane Thomas, 27 wins, two defeats, early Sunday morning in a made-for-television fight in the port city of Genoa.

The undercard at Genoa's Sports Palace feature a 10-round-

der between former welterweight king Don "Cobra" Curry and Mexican Lupe Aquino. Rosi beat Aquino last October to take the WBC crown from the Mexican.

Curry, Thomas and Aquino are continuing their buildup for the bouts in Genoa. All four fighters, including Rosi, trained through the Christmas weekend.

Rosi went so far as to experiment with post-midnight sparring, an idea whose time — at least for the Italian champion — has definitely not come.

"I slept until 6 p.m. ate and parked in front of the television," Rosi said. "We went into the gym at three in the morning with doctors supervising the workout."

"Physically, there were no problems. Psychologically, it

wasn't right and I gave up the idea."

Thomas has lost only to American Buster Drayton in April 1982 (fight stopped for injury) and to Aquino last July on points.

His manager Toni Ayala says skipping Christmas weighed only slightly on his fighter.

"Thomas is a Catholic, but giving up the holiday is worth it in this search for fortune," Ayala said. "The gym has become Duane's home."

According to his handlers, the 26-year-old Detroit, Michigan, native is not even considering a loss to Rosi as the Italian makes his first title defence.

"We don't even think about the possibility," Ayala said. "It brings bad luck."

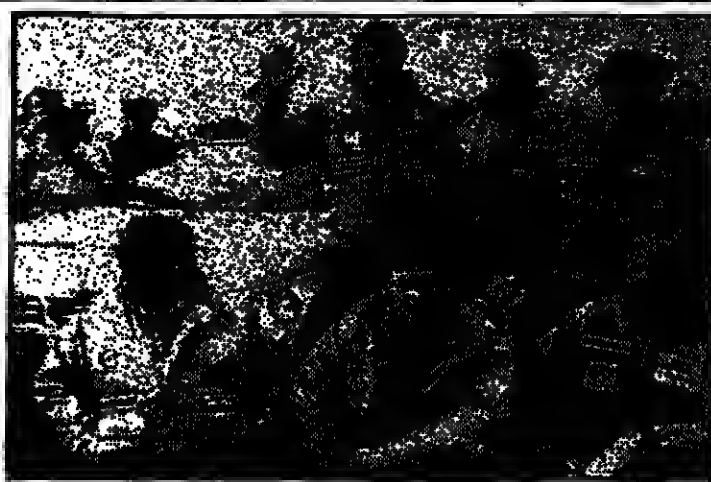
Lee triumphs

SEOUL, Dec. 27. (UPI) South Korea's Lee Sung-Hoon retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior featherweight title today with a split decision over Venezuelan Jose Sanabria.

The champion scored both to Sanabria's body and face, and although he countered, the challenger was never quite as effective through the 15 rounds at the indoor gymnasium in Pohang, 170 miles southeast of Seoul.

Nevertheless, Lee clinched the decision by landing the better blows with a final round flurry against his second-ranked opponent.

It was Lee's 41st victory against six defeats, and Sanabria's second loss against 14 wins. Both fighters weighed in at 55.34 kg.



● The Peugeot team for 1988 pose in front of a Peugeot T16 car on Saturday in Paris. The team will compete in the Paris-Dakar rally which will start on Jan. 1, 1988. From left to right: last year's winner Finland's Ari Vatanen (waving), two-time world rally champion Juha Kankkunen, Ambassador and kneeling is Pirronen. In front are Berglund, Fourtq and France's Henri Pescarolo. (Reuter radiophoto).

Soviet sports mission arrives in South Korea

SEOUL, Dec. 27. (Reuter) A Soviet sports mission arrived in Seoul today to discuss participation in next year's Olympic Games in the South Korean capital, the domestic news agency Yonhap said.

Yonhap said a four-member delegation, led by Soviet National Olympic Committee vice-president Vjatcheslav Gavrilin, would stay for four days to discuss "ways to transport athletes and other practical matters related with Olympic participation."

Officials of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee and the Seoul Sports Ministry were not available for comment but airport officials confirmed the arrival of the delegation.

The unheralded visit by the Soviet delegation comes after Hungary and East Germany last week announced participation in the Olympics, boosting prospects that the Games would be attended by leading sports nations of both East and West for the first time in 12 years.

Hungary and East Germany last Monday became the first East European countries to accept the International Olympic Committee's invitations to the Games, well ahead of the January 17 deadline.

It is the second time this year that a Soviet sports mission has visited South Korea.

In July, nine Soviet Olympic officials led by State Sports Committee vice-president Anatoly Kolesov stayed for a week to examine Games preparations.

Participation of Soviet bloc countries in the Seoul Olympics has been in doubt since North Korea warned it could call a communist boycott unless allowed to stage some events. South Korea has no diplomatic relations with communist countries.

In 1980 the United States led a boycott against the Moscow Olympics in protest over the Soviet move into Afghanistan.

Four years later all Soviet bloc countries except Romania stayed away from the Los Angeles Games, citing security fears.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug on Friday quoted a senior Soviet sports official as saying he expected Moscow to send a team to the Seoul Games.

Nikolai Rusak, first deputy president of the Soviet State Sports Committee, said the Soviet Olympic Committee would reach a final decision during a five-day meeting starting January 11.

Jansen seeks to excel in speedskating comeback

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 27. (AP) Dan Jansen was fourth in the 500 metres speedskating at the 1984 Winter Olympics. He's expecting more from himself this time around, and so are others.

"I was only 18 and there wasn't really anything expected of you. My biggest goal was to make the team and then I wanted to go over there and do the best I could. There really was no pressure other than what I put on."

Jansen says, reflecting on the 1984 Games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

Better

"Now I'm four years older, I'm bigger and stronger and I'm better technically."

"If I can skate to my potential without any slips or mistakes, I think I can win two medals, one in the 500 and one in the 1,000. Hopefully gold. That would be nice," Jansen said of the Calgary

Games in February.

Jansen lived up to some of that promise last weekend at the Olympics speedskating trials when he won the men's 1,000 metres and took three of the four trials in which he has competed.

Jansen has learned to cope with more than expectations since he learned last January that his sister, Jane Jansen Beres, had leukemia.

The youngest of nine sisters and brothers, Jansen said his sister's illness quickly reorganised his priorities. His bone marrow is a match for hers and he could be called upon for a transplant.

"They tested the eight other kids and you have to have a perfect match. I was one and so was another sister," said Jansen.

"They didn't take me because I was sick at the time. But I never considered anything about skating. It's just not important compared to Jane's life."

Jansen's sister won't be able to make the trip to Calgary to watch her baby brother go for the gold, but she'll be watching on television while millions of viewers watch her reaction.

"She can't go because there are too many people and there are too many germs," said Jansen. "She'll be watching at TV and ABC will be in the living room with her. They said they're going to hook us up on the phone when the race is finished."

Jansen was himself during the 1987 World Cup speedskating season. He came down with mononucleosis and after winning the World Cup 500 and 1,000 metre races in 1986 took third place in 1987.

Events

The RCMP will be responsible for security at the Games mountain venues of Nakiska and Canmore — where the Alpine and Nordic skiing events will be staged — while the CPS will handle security at the city venues and athletes village at Calgary University.

There are no plans to involve the military, although 600 soldiers will be on standby throughout the Games.

The account is very definitely on deterrence.

Next year's GP season to witness new developments

THE 1988 Grand Prix season will see the advent of a new era in Formula One racing — especially for the Marlboro World Championship Team.

While all the teams will be facing the challenge of the new technical regulations, Marlboro McLaren will race for the first time with Honda engines. The team also has a new driver, the talented Brazilian Ayrton Senna.

Hope

Ferrari's Marlboro-sponsored drivers will start the season with the new found hope that their team is once more competitive.

Finally, rising stars from the Marlboro World Championship Team driver development scheme, Yannick Dalmas and Stefano Modena, will be setting out on their first full Grand Prix season.

The 1987 Grand Prix year was rich in achievement for members of the team, with Alain Prost notching up a record 28th career Grand Prix victory and Gerhard Berger putting Ferrari back into the winner's circle after an absence of two years.

Although he failed to claim the Drivers' title hat-trick, Prost secured his McLaren-TAG MP4, 3 to victories in Brazil, Belgium and Portugal. The last-mentioned success marked his long-awaited 28th victory, beating the 13-year old record of 27 wins which had stood to Jackie Stewart's credit since his retirement at the end of 1973.

The year marked the last season for the remarkable Porsche TAG engine which, over the past four seasons, has powered the World Champion driver on

three occasions — Niki Lauda in 1984 and Alain Prost in '85 and '86. The cars won a total of 25 Grand Prix during that period and, in 1984, Lauda and Prost contributed to an all-time record score of 143-1/2 points in the Constructors' Championship.

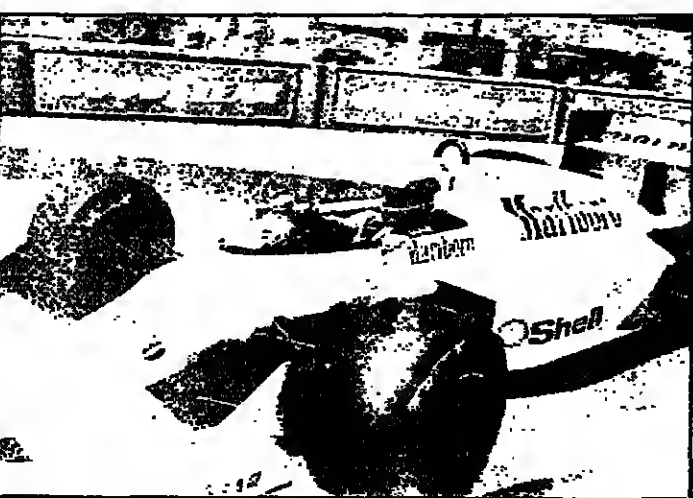
Phase

For 1988, McLaren will be facing an ambitious new challenge using Honda engines. "Our partnership with Honda marks an exciting new phase in our company's development," says McLaren Director Ron Dennis, "and it will be a particularly interesting technical challenge to see how the turbocharged engines perform under the new technical regulations which require a reduction in boost pressure from 4-bar to 2.5-bar and a reduction in fuel capacity from 195-litres to 150-litres. I am sure that, in collaboration with Honda, McLaren will continue to remain in the forefront of Grand Prix action."

McLaren already have a mock-up Honda-engined car and will soon start an extensive testing programme, much of it at Suzuka in Japan. "Our 1988 car will be announced shortly after," adds Ron Dennis, "and we will be fully competitive by the start of the new season at Rio in March."

Intention

For 1988, Ayrton Senna joins the McLaren team's line-up alongside Alain Prost. "It is the team's basic intention that we should win every race in which we participate," says Ron Dennis, "and if we win World Cham-



Prost in his McLaren.

prompts, it becomes a product of our commitment to succeed in each individual race.

Accordingly, it is our ambition to have the two best drivers in the world on our team strength. With Ayrton joining Alain in 1988, I believe we will have achieved that objective."

Started

Ferrari's return to the winner's rostrum in 1987 came after a bleak two year spell. Michele Alboreto having won the team's last Grand Prix at Nurburgring in the summer of 1985. Thanks to the input of new engineering director, John Barnard, and the exclusive aerodynamic development carried out by his colleague Harvey Postlethwaite at the Maranello wind tunnel (which only became fully operational towards the end of 1986), the Ferrari F187 was

gradually licked into highly competitive shape.

The turning point was the Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest, where Gerhard Berger qualified on the front row alongside Nigel Mansell's Williams-Honda for the first time. Thereafter the cars regularly ran near the front of the field and it was obvious that Berger, in particular, was maturing into a first-rate contender. He qualified on pole position for the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril and led commandingly, only to be harried into a spin a few laps from the chequered flag by the tenacious Prost. "I spent too much time looking for Alain in my mirrors rather than watching the road," admitted Gerhard candidly.

However, in the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka and the

SPORTS

Kiwis remain angry over Dyer incident

MELBOURNE, Dec 27 (Reuters): New Zealand remained upset today over the controversial catch claimed by Australian wicketkeeper Greg Dyer in the third cricket Test.

The tourists were angered by what they saw as the white-washing of Dyer in statements made by Australian manager Ian McDonald after a series of meetings between both camps aimed at defusing tension.

New Zealand manager Alby Duckmanton said Dyer would have to live with his conscience for the rest of his life after claiming the catch which dismissed Andrew Jones yesterday.

Television replays showed the ball had spilled from the Australian wicketkeeper's gloves as he made a desperate rolling dive down the leg side.

Believed

After meetings last night and this morning, McDonald told reporters Dyer had genuinely believed he'd taken the catch and had sent a message "of sportsmanship" to the New Zealanders via Australian coach Bob Simpson.

Duckmanton said the New Zealanders were upset at the comments when they heard them broadcast on the television in the dressing room.

"The statements that came over TV were incorrect and not consistent with Simpson's remarks to me," Duckmanton said.

"No way can I accept that Dyer did not know he had not made a fair catch and wanted to make an apology after he had seen the TV replay," he added.

The Australians stood by their keeper. "The Australian team and the Australian team manager are quite confident in their belief that Greg Dyer genuinely, honestly believed he'd taken the catch at that time," said McDonald.

Newspapers in New Zealand and Australia compared the controversial catch to the infamous occasion in 1981 when Australian captain Greg Chappell ordered brother Trevor to bowl the last ball of a one-day international underarm to prevent New Zealand scoring the six runs needed to win.

The Dominion Sunday Times in New Zealand headlined its report on the Melbourne Test "Jones' dismissal has that underarm odour," while the Sunday Times was more direct. "Dyer, you're a liar," it said.

Display

The incident was unfortunate in the light of a widely-acclaimed display of sportsmanship by New Zealand captain Jeff Crowe in the second Test in Adelaide.

Crowe, diving at cover point, appeared to catch his opposite number Allan Border cleanly. But, as Border headed for the pavilion, Crowe indicated the ball had brushed the ground.

The underarm incident in 1981 led to a freeze in relations between cricketers from the two countries which has only thawed on this tour.

MCDERMOTT DISMISSES FIVE KIWIS' BATSMEN

Four-wicket Hadlee has Australia struggling

MELBOURNE, Dec 27 (Reuters): Richard Hadlee produced the finest display of fast bowling seen in this country since the retirement of Dennis Lillee to send the Australian first innings in the third and final Test into a tailspin today.

Hadlee, 36, took four wickets for 62 as Australia struggled to 170 for five in reply to New Zealand's 317.

It was pace bowling at its most vicious and cerebral as Hadlee outfoxed David Boon, Geoff Marsh and Dean Jones in his opening spell.

Dropped

At one stage he had taken three for six off 19 balls and it should have been four for six. Australian captain Allan Border was dropped off his first ball, a delivery which reared off a full length and took an edge with Border in knots.

Hadlee came back after tea to dismiss Mike Veletta and end the day with figures of four for 62 off 22 overs. Only Steve Waugh, with a brave 55 not out, had any answer to the great man, deciding aggression should be met with aggression.

Before their afternoon trial by fire, the morning session proved fruitful for Australia as they wrapped up the last five New Zealand wickets for the addition of 75 runs.

Martin Crowe, seemingly set for his ninth Test century, added just six to his overnight 76 before he was superbly caught by Veletta in the slips off Craig



Hadlee: put in a fiery spell

McDermott.

Off the next ball, the first of Mike Whitney's over, John Bracewell nicked a catch to wicketkeeper Greg Dyer and left for the pavilion disgusted with the umpire's decision to give him out for nine.

Hadlee and Morrison went cheaply but wicketkeeper Ian Smith, with some lusty blows, took his side's total over 300 before he was caught at mid-on off Whitney. Smith hit 44.

Whitney, playing his first Test in Australia, finished with four for 92 while McDermott, taking five wickets for the third time in a Test, ended with five for 97.

McDermott, following in the footsteps of Lillee who retired in 1984, bowled with fire and accuracy. But his fine effort palled once Hadlee began steaming in flat out under overcast skies.

The two Australian openers



McDermott: five for 97

lived dangerously from the start and it came as no surprise when Boon was trapped lbw for 10 with the score on 24.

Six runs later Marsh was beaten off the pitch and substitute fielder Ken Rutherford took a sprawling catch in the gully. Marsh scored 13.

Border, looking as nervous as a debutant, edged his first ball but second slip John Bracewell dropped a catch heading straight into the hands of Jeff Crowe.

Jones fared no better than his captain and was dismissed for four, driving at a ball that swung late and moved away off the pitch. Smith took the simple catch.

Hadlee's departure from the attack eased the pressure and Border seemed well settled until, on 31, he hit a simple catch to Jeff Crowe at mid-off off the bowling of spinner Bracewell.

Veletta and Waugh played

enterprisingly for a while before Hadlee returned to trap Veletta for 31.

Waugh, however, was gritty in the face of a tiring Hadlee and hit some fine cover drives to reach his 50 off 82 balls, including seven fours, just before the close.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings:
P. Horne c Dyer b McDermott... 7
J. Wright c Dyer b McDermott... 99
A. Jones c Dyer b McDermott... 40
M. Crowe c Veletta b McDermott... 82
J. Crowe lbw b McDermott... 6
D. Patel b McDermott... 9
J. Bracewell c Dyer b Whitney... 9
R. Hadlee b McDermott... 11
I. Smith c Jones b Whitney... 44
D. Morrison c Border b Whitney... 40
E. Chatfield not out... 6
Extras (b-1 lb-4 nb-5)... 13
Total... 317

Wicketfalls: 1-32 2-119 3-187 4-221 5-223 6-254 7-254 8-280 9-294.
Bowling: McDermott 35-8-97-5 (7nb), Whitney 33-6-92-4 (1nb), McDermott 20-4-48-1, Waugh 10-1-44-0, Sleep 12-1-31-0.

AUSTRALIA first innings:
D. Boon lbw Hadlee... 10
G. Marsh c sob Rutherford b Hadlee... 13
D. Jones c Smith b Hadlee... 4
A. Border c J. Crowe b Bracewell... 31
M. Veletta lbw b Hadlee... 31
S. Waugh not out... 55
P. Sleep not out... 16
Extras (b-4 nb-6)... 17
Total (for five wickets)... 170
Wicketfalls: 1-24 2-30 3-31 4-78 5-121.

To bat: G. Dyer, C. McDermott, M. Whitney, T. Dodemede.

Bowling to date: Hadlee 22-5-62-4 (nb), Morrison 11-3-37-0 (nb), Chatfield 18-4-42-0, Bracewell 10-2-25-1.

Logie and Hooper score centuries

W. Indies give India batting lesson

CALCUTTA, Dec 27 (Reuters): Centuries by Gus Logie and Carl Hooper built on the solid foundation laid by Gordon Greenidge as the West Indies amassed 530 for five declared on the second day of the third cricket Test against India today.

Although Greenidge added only eight to his overnight 133 before snicking a delivery from Kapil Dev to wicket-keeper Kiran More, Logie made 101, his second Test century, and Hooper completed his maiden 100.

Looked

India, one down in the four-match series, were 20 without loss in their first innings by the close.

Greenidge looked jaded when

he and captain Viv Richards resumed at 263 for two. The opener struck 14 boundaries in a 265-ball stay.

Richards hit two exquisitely-timed boundaries off successive deliveries from medium pacer Chetan Sharma before falling to the same bowler on the third ball of that over.

His first four was a square cut, the second a cover drive and the third a mis-hook which went straight to Kapil Dev at long leg. He hit eight fours in his 68.

Logie took up the gauntlet and sparked in a fifth wicket stand of 169 with Hooper which delighted a 45,000 holiday crowd.

Logie hit 15 fours off 136 deliveries, his second Test century, before he was caught and

bowled by left arm spinner Maninder Singh. It was Singh's only wicket for 111 runs.

His dismissal set the stage for another superb partnership between Hooper and Jeff Dujon, who was outshone by his less experienced partner. Hooper hit three sixes and seven fours in his unbeaten innings. Dujon contributed 40 not out.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings (over- night 263 for two)

G. Greenidge c More b Kapil Dev 141
D. Hooper c Srikanth b Kapil Dev 15
R. Richardson c Asharuddin b Shastri 51
V. Richards c Kapil Dev b Sharma 68
G. Logie c and b Maninder Singh 101
C. Hooper not out... 100

J. Dujon not out... 40
Extras (b-2 lb-12 nb-10)... 24
Total (for five wickets declared) 530

Did not bat: C. Bonts, W. Davis, C. Walsh, P. Patterson.

Fall of wickets: 1-13 2-160 3-284 4-288 5-457.

Bowling: Kapil Dev 28-6-103-2, Sharma 15-1-0-80-1, Maninder 36-5-111-1, Ayub 46-5-146-0, Shastri 22-4-66-1, Amarnath 3-5-0-16-0.

INDIA first innings:

K. Srikanth not out... 7
A. Lal not out... 11
Extras (nb-2)... 2
Total (for no wicket)... 20

To bat: M. Asharuddin, D. Veng-sarkar, M. Amarnath, R. Shastri, Kapil Dev, K. More, A. Ayub, C. Sharma and M. Singh.

Bowling: P. Patterson 2-0-6-0, C. Walsh 2-0-14-0.

Base camp

KATMANDU, Nepal, Dec 27 (AP): A nine-man Polish expedition trying to scale Makalu, the world's fifth tallest peak, has set up its base camp, according to a message brought here today by a mailrunner.

The Polish climbers established the camp on Dec 8 at 4,500 metres.

The team, led by Andrzej Machnik, a 34-year-old geographer of Gliwice, plans to establish four high altitude camps before attempting the 8,463-metre peak.

Kiev sign two key players from rivals

MOSCOW, Dec 27 (Reuters): Dynamo Kiev have signed two Soviet internationals from main Ukrainian rivals Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk in a bid to rebound from their disappointing six-place League finish last season.

Star striker Oleg Protasov and attacking midfielder Gennady Litovchenko had both switched to Dynamo, according to the Ukrainian Communist Party daily Pravda Ukrainy.

Dnepr, formerly a trade union-affiliated side, broke new ground last season by severing links with their sponsors to become the first Soviet independent, self-financing, fully professional club, with players on three-year contracts.

Protasov and Litovchenko both refused to sign new contracts for Dnepr, champions in 1985 and runner-up last season. Dynamo coach Valery Loban-

ovsky, who also coaches the Soviet national team who have qualified for next year's European championship finals in West Germany, confirmed the transfer.

"Yes, Oleg and Gennady have both been called up for military service and will serve in the internal forces," Pravda Ukrainy quoted Lobanovsky as saying. Dynamo Kiev is affiliated to the security services and internal forces.

Doubles tennis developing split personality

Tough schedules put partnerships under pressure

LONDON, Dec 27 (AP): Doubles tennis is developing a split personality.

The top duos contend that doubles play is given a poor deal by organisers of the major tournaments and some of the world's best pairs are in danger of splitting up.

The leading singles players cannot afford to jeopardise their chances of winning major titles by getting involved in doubles play. But the best doubles players need big-name partners to attract lucrative sponsorship and advertising contracts.

Miloslav Mecir and Tomas Smid, the Czechoslovak pair who won the Masters doubles title at the Albert Hall earlier this month, have differing views on the subject.

Different

Mecir, the world's sixth-ranked player, sees singles as his route to glory and riches. Smid, winner of 49 titles with 18 different partners but never above 11th in the singles rankings, says doubles brings in the money.

"I prefer to play singles because I can earn more money," Mecir said. Smid countered: "In my case, doubles is better because I have more chance of winning."

They both agree, however, that doubles competitions become the poor relation when it comes to scheduling the Grand Slam events — the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US Open championships.

"Sometimes they put me on



Edberg: plans to pull out of doubles

late at night in a singles match and then early the next day in a doubles and I need a good sleep," Mecir said.

Smid said he then had trouble motivating his unpredictable partner.

"I think that when Milos is sharp and eager to play we can beat anybody," he said. "But no one knows when he is going to be like that."

Mecir said his doubles

programme for next year depended on his schedule.

"We hope to stay as a partnership for a couple more seasons," he said. "But who knows what is going to happen?"

The Czechoslovaks' views were echoed by other big names at the Albert Hall event, the lone doubles-only tournament on the schedule.

Sweden's Stefan Edberg, second in the world singles rank-

ings, has announced drastic changes after being a scheduling victim at the US Open in September.

Edberg found himself playing a singles semifinal the morning after he was involved in a late-night doubles. He lost the singles match but went on to win the doubles title with his countryman, Anders Jarryd.

To avoid similar scheduling problems at next year's Grand Slam events, Edberg plans to pull out of the doubles.

That leaves Jarryd, a doubles specialist although he ranked 15th as a singles player, without a partner.

As well as the US Open doubles title, Jarryd won the Australian Championship with Edberg and the French Open with American Robert Seguso.

The two Swedes are good friends, live close together in London and have won 12 championships together in the last three years, including two Masters doubles titles.

"We will still play some tournaments together. I hope we will play about six or seven, but looking at the schedules, it doesn't look good," Jarryd said.

He also said doubles competition was badly treated by organisers of the Grand Slams.

"In the major events, doubles events don't seem to carry much importance, and it's a good thing there is a tournament like the Masters doubles," he said.

Edberg said the experience at Flushing Meadow had forced

him to take action.

"It was too much, I think that the organisers of these events don't care too much for doubles," he said. "I'm still going to play some doubles tournaments, but probably not in the Grand Slams."

"At this stage in my career, I don't think that missing these events will affect my game a lot."

The Masters doubles included some players who are a long way down the singles rankings but are comparative giants of the doubles court.

Seguso and his regular partner, countryman Ken Flach, have won 18 titles together. They are the reigning Wimbledon doubles champions and they reached the Masters doubles final before losing to Mecir and Smid.

While neither boasts a feared serve or specialist shot, the two Americans epitomise teamwork. They have devised a system of signals at the serve, the non-server holding his hand behind his back and telling the server where to place the ball, so he can anticipate the return.

Higher

Australians Peter Doohan and Laurie Warder were another team at the Albert Hall to use a signalling system.

Warder sees doubles as a great leveler.

"When I go on court against someone who is ranked two or three in the world, I'm not intimidated. I consider myself as good at doubles as they are at singles," he said.

Madugalle likely to miss Sri Lanka's two-day game



Labrooy: impresses manager

PERTH, Australia, Dec 27 (Reuters): Sri Lankan captain Ranjan Madugalle is ill and is likely to miss his side's two-day cricket match against Western Australia starting at the Waca ground tomorrow.

Madugalle has a fever and missed today's practice. A doctor prescribed medication and ordered him to bed.

But he still hoped to play tomorrow to get batting practice for Sri Lanka's opening match in the World Series Cup against Australia here on Saturday.

Madugalle scored only nine runs in yesterday's limited-over match against West Australia, which Sri Lanka won by 61 runs.

"We will delay choosing our side until the morning, Sri Lanka manager Abu Fuard said.

"It all depends on how Madugalle feels. We certainly won't be taking any risks with him."

If Madugalle does not play, the side will be led by vice-captain Arjuna Ranatunga, who scored 51 runs in only 41 deliveries in yesterday's tour opener.

"Everything is shaping up nicely," Fuard said after the win.

"Most of the players performed up to expectations. But we are still sorting things out and are still working on our best combination for our opening Cup match."

Fuard was particularly impressed with young fast bowler Graeme Labrooy, who dismissed West Australia openers Mark McPhee and Kim Hughes in a fiery opening spell.

"He's got good pace, but he's still immature and tends to be a bit erratic," Fuard said. "I'm just hoping he learns a lot on tour."

Picked

It is likely the five players who did not play yesterday will be picked for the two-day match. They are batsman Brendon Kuruppu, new-ball bowlers Athula Samarasekera and Champaka Ramanayake and spinners Sanath Kaluperuma and Sridharan Jegannathan.

Meanwhile, the dismal performance by the West Australian side shocked the state selectors, who have put off naming the side to meet South Australia in a Sheffield Shield match next Friday until after the two-day match with Sri Lanka.

Sovereign retains lead

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec 27 (AP): Australian yacht Sovereign, the world's largest maxi, today continued to lead a record 153-strong fleet in the 630 nautical miles Sydney-Hobart yacht race.

At the last reported placings of the fleet today, 27 hours after the Boxing Day start from Sydney harbour, Sovereign was 30 nautical miles into Bass Strait — almost halfway to Hobart.

Owner Bernard Lewis and skipper David Kelleit had Sovereign on course for a record in the annual race, which is being contested for the 43rd time.

American yacht Kialoa, owned by Jim Kilroy, set the race record of 2 days 14 hours 36 minutes in 1975.

Australian pocket maxi Helsal II was in second place, two miles behind Sovereign. She was followed only half a mile back by another Australian yacht, Gazebo.

Then came Apollo, Rager, Hammer of Queensland and Helsal III, all of Australia, and New Zealand yacht Starlight Express.

American yacht Sidewinder, skippered by America's Cup helmsman John Bertramp, was ninth with Hong Kong's Highland Fling 10th.

Miniature soccer tackles the plastic rowdies

LONDON, Dec 27 (AP): Fan violence, the plague of professional soccer worldwide, now threatens its miniaturised replica, it seems.

Subuteo, the game played on a baize table cloth with one-inch high plastic players, now has tiny police on horseback standing by to keep the tiny plastic fans in order.

Invented some 40 years ago in southeast England and now with a worldwide membership with its own World Cup, Subuteo is moving with the times.

In an effort to keep the game as authentic as possible, its manufacturers, Waddingtons, have developed the trappings that go with the real game, including floodlights, cheering fans, police and even a controversial Astroturf playing surface — a sort of artificial pitch.

The police on horseback, however, don't exactly have the seal of approval of the Football Association, which governs the real game in England.

A spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said it was surprising that the plastic fans at Subuteo games had to be kept in check by mounted police.

"I have not seen police on horseback controlling many games so if Subuteo is striving to be absolutely authentic, in that sense it isn't," the spokesman said. "It's a little exaggerated."

Subuteo, which has its roots in a similar game played by British sailors in World War II, involves trying to score goals by flicking one of the plastic players at the ball with the middle or index finger. Each competitor takes turns to flick but can keep possession by continually hitting the ball.

Finger-technique is the key and the British junior champion, 16-year-old schoolboy Jason Cook from the central English city of Birmingham, maintains one fingernail half an inch longer than the rest.

Trevor Spencer, Subuteo's products manager, said in an interview that the game is played in 36 countries, 24 of which are affiliated to Fisa, the Federation of International Subuteo Associations, based in Leeds, England.

Most Subuteo enthusiasts are school-age amateurs, he said, although there are semi-professionals in Italy who get paid for exhibition appearances.

To keep up with modern trends, Subuteo has developed various accessories to complete the matchday atmosphere, Spencer said.

Subuteo enthusiasts can buy a stadium lay-out with floodlights and an antilever stand modeled on Tottenham Hotspur's White Hart Lane, complete with executive boxes.

"They can buy groups of fans, who sit in the seats waving their hands. The kids who go to real games see the police on horseback controlling the fans, so in the interests of authenticity we have added them as well," Spencer said.

"Fortunately in our game, we don't have little plastic bottles being thrown on to the pitch," he added.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Road race

ZURICH, Dec 27 (Reuters): Briton Jack Buckner won the annual eight kms Silversternlauf Road Race today in 22 minutes 41.95 seconds ahead of Tunisia's Fethi Baccosche, who clocked 22:45.07.

European title

MARTIGNY, Switzerland, Dec 27 (Reuters): Swiss-based Italian Mauro Martelli retained his European welterweight boxing title when he beat French challenger Jean-Marie Touatou points over 12 rounds today.

Open tennis

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Dec 27 (AP): Jonas Svensson of Sweden is the highest ranked player in the field for the \$150,000 New Zealand Open tennis championships, which begin tomorrow.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Habara Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

1. Merchant & Drexler
2. Ascora & Bhat
3. Jamila Akel & Nabil Akel

E/W:
1. Mrs Pereira & D'Souza
2. A. Rifai & Ghazi
3. Mrs Guirgis & Dr Omar

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